

A proper reply to the serjeant surgeons [i.e. J. Ranby and C. Hawkins's] defence of their conduct at Chelsea Hospital [in 'The true account of all the transactions, etc.'] / [Samuel Lee].

Contributors

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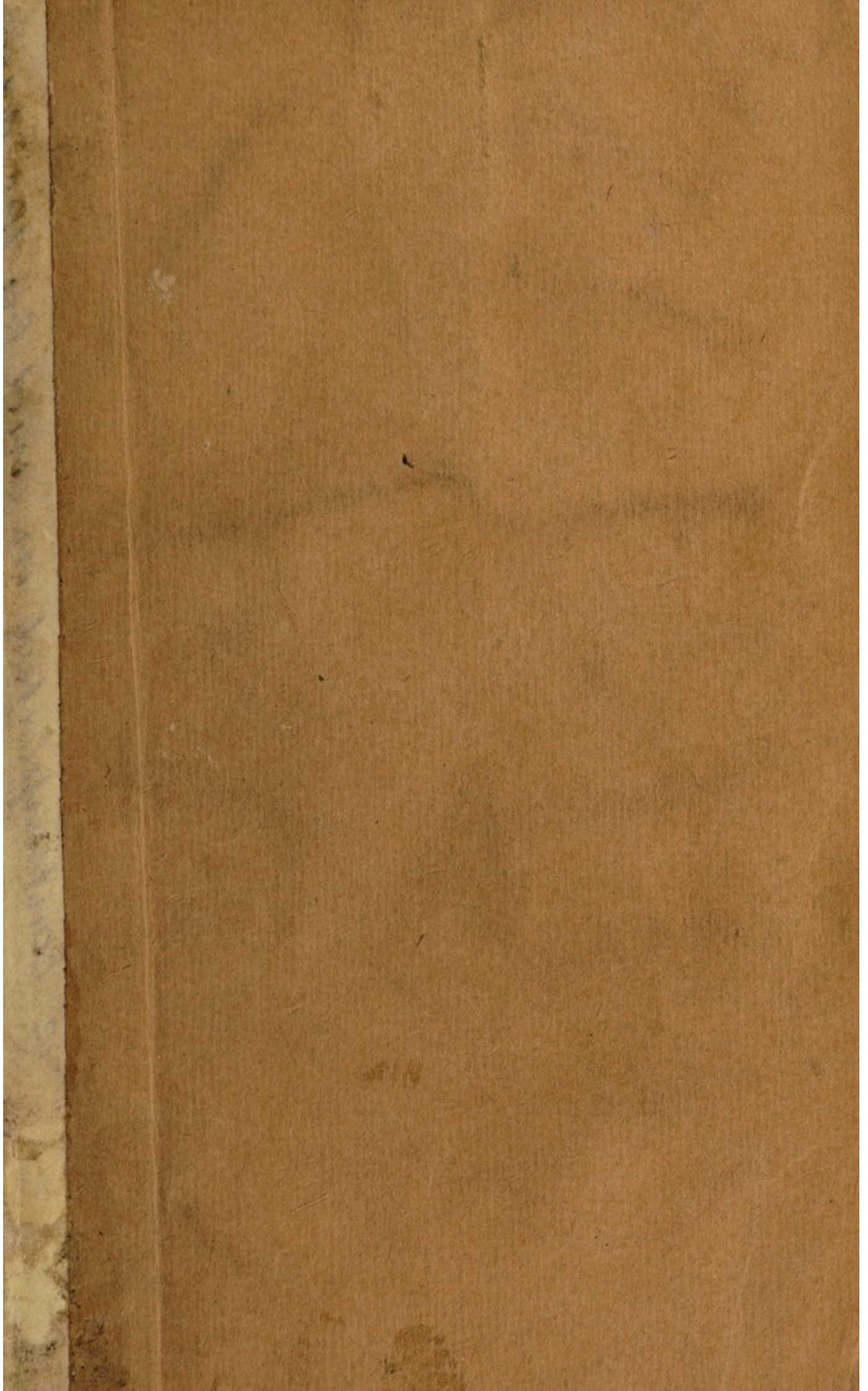
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LEE, S.

A proper reply...

1754

Pp 1-8 are part of RANBY, J., and HAWKINS, C.

The true account.

Now separated and shelved separately in [P.]

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A PROPER
REPLY
TO THE
SERJEANT SURGEONS
DEFENCE
OF THEIR
CONDUCT
AT
CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

By SAMUEL LEE,
*Surgeon to His Majesty's ROYAL HOSPITAL
at Greenwich.*

*The interested Prevention of a real Remedy partakes no
less of Imposture than the mercenary Imposition of a
pretended one.*

See Preface to Narrative.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. OWEN, at *Homer's Head*, near *Temple-Bar*.
MDCCLIV.

A B R O P E R

R E P L Y

TO THE

SERIALS SECTION

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A P R O P E R
R E P L Y
T O T H E

Serjeant Surgeons, &c.

MR. LEE, having abundant reason to complain of the Treatment he had received at *Chelsea* Hospital, and finding all private Avenues to Redress closed against him, thought it might not be deemed impertinent to submit a fair and candid Account of the whole Proceedings to the Judgment of the Public; and apprehended himself more peculiarly justified in this Appeal, as the extraordinary Opposition he met with was not merely a personal Concern, but, in some measure, affected the Welfare of Mankind in general.—Had the petty Consideration of an Hospital Allowance been the only Point in dispute, he would have spared his Opponents and himself the Trouble of this public Contest, and have spent his time much more profit-

ably in the Course of a successful private Practice ; but when an honest Proposal for his Majesty's Service, the Relief of his afflicted Veterans, and the Benefit of the Revenue is treated as a Chimera, and the Author of it as an Impostor, only because it may interfere with the Interest and Vanity of some dignified Professors, Silence would be criminal ; and a passive Acquiescence under such Calumny would imply as great an Indifference in Mr. Lee, with regard to his Reputation, as these Gentlemen seem to have shewn to theirs in their unwarrantable Attack of him.

THIS Motive occasioned the Publication of a Pamphlet intitled, *A Narrative of some Proceedings in the Management of Chelsea Hospital, as far as relates to the Appointment and Dismission of Samuel Lee, Surgeon.*—As this Piece contained a succinct and plain Recital of Facts justified by the Minutes of the Board, and corroborated by the Testimony as well as Oaths of numerous living Witnesses, it had the good Fortune to obtain such a degree of Credit, as to render the Innocence of Mr. Lee's Opposers not totally indisputable even among their best Friends and greatest Supporters ; to remove which unfavourable Impression no Diligence was spared, no Art left unpractised, every Ear of Quality was besieged, every Toilet haunted and the Mistress of it alarmed with some dreadful Account of Mr. Lee ; while their physical Emissaries were instructed to roar out in every Coffee-house *Imposture, Bribery, Quackery, Perjury, &c.* however, this method of exculpating themselves not being judged sufficiently satisfactory, they found themselves at length reduced to the disagreeable necessity of exposing themselves in Print, and hoped, though unable to *confute*, they might at least be successful enough to *confound*, and imagined that a *lucky Legerdemain* of Names, Dates, *Affertions, Misrepresentations, Fibs* (or to use their own more significant Term

Term) *false-Facts*, would pass with the inattentive for an Answer. Accordingly by the united Assistance of various medical Committees, and seven months close application, an elaborate Performance makes its Appearance, miscalled—*The true Account of all the Transactions before the Right Honourable the Lords and other Commissioners for the Affairs of Chelsea Hospital, &c.*—sanctified with the authoritative Names of JOHN RANBY and CÆSAR HAWKINS, *Serjeant Surgeons to his Majesty*. It is observable, that in whatever low and insignificant a Light Mr. Lee had been represented by his Adversaries, that nothing now but these *chirurgical Generals* taking the Field in Person is thought capable of opposing his Progress, and though the latter of these Gentlemen may plead the excuse of having had but an inconsiderable share in these Transactions, yet, as he has thought proper to become a Partner in the Avowal of them, he must submit to the Penalty which generally attends the Indiscretion of keeping *bad Company*.

BUT not to detain the Reader any longer than possible upon a Subject which, though it may excite his Indignation, will afford him little matter of Entertainment, we shall proceed in the most summary manner, *First*, to examine these Gentlemen's *Account of a Rupture*. *Secondly*, to detect the Insufficiency of what they would willingly have understood as an *Answer*. And, *Thirdly*, recapitulate some material Facts to which they have been prudent enough not to attempt giving any *Answer at all*; in the course of which it will evidently appear, that, how skilful soever our Serjeant Surgeons may be in the Anatomy of the Parts of the Body, they are somewhat defective in that of the Powers of the Mind; and that it implies no contradiction to assert, That a very good *Surgeon* may be a very *bad Author*.

THESE

THESE Gentlemen set out with informing the Reader, that—“ *They long hesitated whether they ought, or, indeed, whether it was worth their while to take any public Notice of the Charge which had been alledged against them, hoping that their Characters would skreen them from Suspicion, and that Time, who generally does justice to Men, would prove their Defender.*” — But finding at length that the former was rather too frail a Security for their Innocence, and the Verdict of the latter was by no means in their Favour, it seems they were obliged at last to put themselves on their Defence at the Bar of the Public, and endeavour, by some other method, to obtain that Acquittal which experience had shewn neither their CHARACTERS or TIME had been able to procure them.

HOWEVER general and superficial our learned Sergeants Definition of a Rupture may be, yet, for brevity's sake, we shall agree with them, — “ *That it is an external Swelling at the bottom of the Belly, easily to be felt and seen, occasioned by the Gut or Caul, or both, forcing their Way, out of their proper Situation within the Cavity of the Belly, through Openings naturally designed to give Passage to particular Vessels only, which Openings are so tight and small in the right and natural State of the Body as not to permit the Gut or Caul to pass along with these Vessels, and it is only from some accidental and preternatural dilating of them that the Rupture proceeds.*” — To which they should have added, and that it is only by such Applications as have a Power to contract this preternatural Dilatation that the Cure can be effected. Now the only essential Question in this Controversy is, whether Mr. Lee has discovered any such Means of producing this Effect as were either unknown or unpractised by his Brethren of the Profession; to invalidate his Pretensions to any merit of this sort: while his Success remained doubtful, the Cure of a
Rup-

Rupture was treated as an Innovation altogether inconsistent with the Tenets of chirurgical Orthodoxy ; but when Facts began to accumulate and come in public competition with their private Opinions, a new Doctrine is to be inculcated, the Difficulty of Cure is to be exploded, and the *Science* of the *Surgeon* is to be sacrificed to the *Mechanism* of the *Truss-maker* ; a Bandage is at once invested with every miraculous Power necessary to this End, and, if you will believe our Serjeant Surgeons,—“ *The Infant, in whom this is scarce to be reckoned as a Distemper, is easily cured by a Bandage.*” — To those “ *In a growing Age, the Bandage well fitted and constantly worn for a proper length of Time proves a certain and infallible Cure.*”—In “ *Grown-up Persons, provided the Truss is early and well fitted, and the Cure favoured by Rest for a length of Time, the dilated Opening is often compleatly strengthened again, and the Rupture cured.*”—In “ *Old Men, the constant wearing of a good Truss frees the ruptured Persons from Pain and all kind of Danger, and most commonly renders the Disorder a slight Inconvenience only, and not an Obstacle to any of the Offices of Life, and sometimes perfectly cures.*” — Wonderful Effects of Steel and Cotton ! — and for the Discovery of which the Public will, no doubt, hold themselves greatly indebted to these Gentlemen ; but as Writers, of authority in Surgery, have generally thought it expedient to bring *Argument* and *Fact* in aid of their *Doctrine*, it may seem somewhat singular that our dignified Professors have not condescended to produce one single Case in Illustration of their *chirurgical Dogma*, or given any other reason why a Truss should have this extraordinary Virtue, except that decisive feminine One—**BECAUSE IT HAS.**—But if a Truss is such a Specific, it may be enquired, why have Infants, and those of Quality, been consigned over from these very Gentlemen themselves to the Care of Mr. *Lee*? was it, *because a Rupture*

ture at that Age was scarcely to be reckoned a Distemper? Why have Persons of a growing age, though attended by these Gentlemen, been kept in Irons from Infancy to Manhood? Was it, because they had not worn them for a proper Length of Time to prove a certain and absolute Cure?—Why are our Armies drained, and Hospitals crowded with Soldiers deemed unserviceable by this Distemper in their Prime of Life? Is it because the dilated Opening is often compleatly strengthened again in a grown-up Person, and the Rupture cured by a Truss?—Why do our Hospitals echo with the continual Lamentations of afflicted Veterans? Is it because in old Age, the wearing of a good Truss frees the ruptured Person from Pain and all kind of Danger, and renders the Distemper no Obstacle to any of the Offices of Life, and sometimes perfectly cures?

BUT our Serjeants should have foreseen, that while they are enhancing the Efficacy of this Machine, they are unwarily impeaching their own Integrity; for may it not furnish matter of Suspicion, that the Army should be suffered to lose *so many Men*, and the Government *so much Money* on Account of a Distemper *so easily and generally cured*? Nay, may not these Gentlemen's private Patients begin to think, the *constant Annuities* they are subjected to by this Complaint rather the result of Policy than Necessity? especially when it is considered, that our Professors have by no Means rendered their visitorial Interposition unnecessary, but have prudently reserved to themselves, *the well fitting this Instrument,—the Care of Inflammations during the wear of it,—and the final Decision of the Cure.* Upon which last Point, in particular, we are told in the following mystical Terms,—“*That Surgeons are often consulted, but cannot be determined by any Appearance or Examination of the Parts; but must be guided in their Opinions, by their general Rules from Experience,*
and

and the Circumstance and History of each particular Case ; and that two or three Months at least are necessary (with no doubt frequent Visitations) before they can upon any just Foundation conclude the Cure really compleat and perfect.”——All this! to determine whether a Man’s Guts are actually down, or the Hole big enough for them to fall through.

THOUGH the Efficacy of the Truss has been industriously pleaded in Diminution of Mr. Lee’s Merits with respect to *common Cases*, yet it seems, there are some *complicated ones* which do not come within the curative Power of this magic Circle. What then is to be done? Why, Authority is to be opposed to Experiment, and the Reader is boldly assured, in *Verbo Chirurgorum*, that they are incurable.—“ *It sometimes happens (say they) that the Gut and Caul, from a long Neglect of returning them into the Belly, adhere and grow to the Parts surrounding them: this Adhesion of Course ever afterwards prevents the Return of the Rupture into the Belly, which thus becomes an INCURABLE CASE.*”——To suppose these Gentlemen sinned against Knowledge, in asserting this Species of a Rupture to be incurable, might be deemed an Affront to their Sincerity; to suppose Want of Knowledge the Occasion of it, no great Compliment to their Abilities: If the former is the case, Mr. Lee has Charity enough to forgive their Malice; if the latter, Generosity enough to rectify their Mistake, by convincing them that it is not only *curable* but has actually been frequently *cured*; and however unnecessary our Serjeants have thought it to produce Cases in support of their Doctrine, Mr. Lee apprehends the Sanction of the following (out of many others) will by no means lessen the Authority of his.

MR. RUTH of *Pudding-lane* had been afflicted with a Rupture forty Years, which, when Mr. Lee under-

took him, was about the Size of a Child's Head, with various Adhesions of the Caul in the Scrotum—the Gut being reduced, the Adhesion of the different Parts of the Caul were separated in about two months, without any Incision, and the Cure afterwards so perfectly compleated that he has made no use of any Bandage for these three Years last past.

MR. SOLOMON of *Church-street, Soho*, had been ruptured about thirty Years, the Caul adhered below. He applied to Mr. *Lee* the 6th *December* 1751, the Adhesions were all separated without any Incision by the 25th Day of the same month, and the Caul entirely reduced, though, from the great Distention of the Orifice, a small Part of it sometimes slid through, but was perfectly cured in about eight months: He continued to wear a Bandage till the 20th of *February* 1753, ever since which he has never once put it on, or experienced the least Symptom of the Return of his Distemper.

MR. OAKLEY of *Chelsea* was ruptured 26 Years, when Mr. *Lee*, being called in by another Gentleman of the Profession, he was of Opinion that a large Quantity of the Caul was fallen into the Scrotum with a small Portion of the Gut, and, as he thought, the Adhesions of the former too strong to be separated without an Incision, proposed an Operation, to which the Patient submitted, and three Days after, the Gut being reduced, he took twenty-three Ounces of the Caul out of the Scrotum, the Wound was healed, and the Patient perfectly cured in six weeks.*

AFTER

* We should not have made so free with these Gentlemen's Names had they not already generously appeared to testify their respective Cures, upon Oath, in open Court; and it is remarkable that while
Mr.

AFTER this, will our Serjeants insist, — “ *That a Rupture attended with an Adhesion is incurable ?* ” — That “ *a Truss well fitted is sufficient to effect every possible Cure ?* ” — That “ *all Experiments made by the Knife and Caustic have been unsuccessful ?* ” — And will the Public be induced to give an implicit Assent to their bare Affirmation, that — “ *all Medicines, internal or external, are of trifling Effect in this Disorder, and unable to penetrate deep enough even to assist or shorten the Cure ?* ” — Had these Gentlemen added, *All Medicines known to them*, it would at least have been an instance of their Modesty if not of their Science ; but that their Knowledge should be the Boundary of all chirurgical Discovery may by some be held no very logical Conclusion. — Does not every Surgeon’s Apprentice know, that there are Medicines capable of pervading the whole Mass of the human Body, and that almost instantaneously ? — Why then unable to penetrate to the Seat of this particular Disorder ? And as the Complaint proceeds from a preternatural dilating of the Opening at the bottom of the Belly, may not an Application of a contracting Quality, able to reach this Part, bid fairer for Cure than any Bandage whatever, which, however useful it may be to keep up the Gut or Caul till the Part so contracted recovers its natural Strength and Tone, is by no means an adequate Cause of that Contraction. Hence it is that although the Patient may experience some degree of Relief, from the *Truss* preventing the Descent of the Rupture, yet, without some more effectual Application, he is seldom

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Mr. Oakley, who lived in the Neighbourhood, was under Mr. Lee’s Care, some physical Spies were almost hourly dispatched from the College in order to get the earliest Notice, had the Operation proved unsuccessful ; but being disappointed in a Subject of Clamour, they took care to conceal the Cure as much as possible from the Knowledge of the Public, by observing ever after a profound Silence on the Occasion.

extricated from its disagreeable *Bondage* during his whole Life.

Would not that Practitioner be deemed a Novice in his Business, who because it may be necessary in the Treatment of a Fracture, should ascribe the Cure to the sole Virtue of the Bandage? Which of itself is full as capable of setting the Bone as of contracting the ruptural Orifice.——Does not every Day's Practice demonstrate that external Applications are made use of for violent Strains, which penetrate to the Parts affected? And that the Bandage is only called in Aid of the Operation of such Medicines as are suited to restore the relaxed Muscles to their natural State and Tone; in short, a Truss, and that only, in some Cases may afford a temporary Relief, by keeping up in some measure the Gut and Caul; but will hardly ever be capable of effecting a Cure, by the Contraction of the Passage through which they descend: It may indeed alleviate the Effects, but cannot remove the Cause. And for the truth of this we may appeal to the experience of those who have only made use of this inadequate Remedy, as well as to the State of our Hospitals, in ONE of which at least our Serjeants have not been able to produce a single Instance of Cure performed by this Means; and which, could they have done, it is presumed the Public would not have failed of having ample Information. This Advantage therefore Mr. *Lee* may justly claim over his Opponents, that, whether he has performed any Cures or no is at least a matter of *some Dispute*, that they have performed none admits of *no Dispute at all*.

To establish this Doctrine, —— *That a Bandage is the only Remedy suited to the Cure of Ruptures*, the Practice of Sir THOMAS RENTON is to be impeached: But altho' that Gentleman's Method might
not

not prove successful *in every Case*, surely it by no means follows that it should be unsuccessful *in all*; and that it really was not so is even within the Knowledge of our Serjeant Surgeons themselves, to whom one of the present Commissioners of *Chelsea Hospital* has declared, that he was actually cured by Sir *Thomas*, and remains perfectly well to this Day. What Opinion then must the Public entertain of these Gentlemen's Sincerity, when they roundly affirm, ——— “ *That within the Course of a few Months the Ruptures of all the Persons who had been under the Care of Sir Thomas returned, and none proved to be cured?* ” ——— But were this the case, how does it affect the present Dispute? Would they infer, that because Sir *Thomas Renton*, who made use of one Method, *did not*; therefore Mr. *Lee*, who makes use of another, *cannot*, succeed? ——— Excellent reasoning! and however peculiar to our learned Professors, may not be thought altogether so conclusive by their Readers.

OUR Serjeants being aware that the Disappearance of the Rupture might, to vulgar Apprehensions, induce a Belief of the Cure, and well knowing that Mr. *Lee* had frequently given this degree of Proof, find it expedient to assure their Readers ——— “ *That Mr. Lee was misleading every one to judge, from their Ruptures not being down at any single examination, that the Men were cured.* ” ——— By which they would unfairly insinuate, that Mr. *Lee* would not permit more than *one* Examination. How disingenuous must this appear to those who, by the NARRATIVE, will perceive that one of Mr. *Lee*'s principal Complaints is, the being *refused*, not *refusing*, Examinations. ——— Do his constant Attendances on the Board to solicit Examinations upon Examinations, ——— His frequent applications to Mr. *Cheselden* and Mr. *Ranby* to repeat their Inspections, or ——— his Agreement with the former to
ex-

examine his Patients three times a week for a Month together, ——— Does this Behaviour justify the Reflection, ——— “ *That free and fair Examinations were denied by Mr. Lee.* ” ——— But it seems, by our Professors calculation, ——— “ *two or three months at least are necessary for the Decision of a Cure.* ” ——— If to this it is answered, that Mr. Lee’s Patients passed through a State of Probation for an equal number of Years, with reiterated Inspections, we are then to be told, ——— “ *That even repeated Inspections at fixed times, if the Person has it in his power to prepare himself accordingly, are still insufficient.* ” ——— What Chicanery is this ! and who would not from hence be apt to conclude, the Belly and Bowels of the Patient somewhat like the Jugler’s Cup and Balls, equally at the disposal of the Surgeon’s dexterity to be *hocus pocus’d* in and out, just as a Deception becomes convenient or profitable. ——— But may not the Practitioner who can thus dexterously produce an *apparent* Cure, be shrewdly suspected of not being the most ignorant in effecting a *real* one ? ——— How true soever then their Postulatum may be, ——— “ *That a single Examination is insufficient to determine a Cure,* ” ——— it must be allowed to be very inconclusively applied on the present occasion ; and for any reasons these Gentlemen have condescended to assign, some may still be inclined to hold, — That whenever the *Intestine* is found to be *reduced*, and the *Opening* at the bottom of the Belly *contracted* to its natural Dimensions, — a Cure may justly be pronounced without the Authority of such extream cautionary and eternal *Re-re-examinations* and *Re-re-inspections*. If a broken Leg was once set and restored to its usual Functions, would our Serjeants themselves hesitate to ratify the Cure only because it might again be subject to the like Accident ?

BUT

BUT who can forbear smiling to see *unfamiliar Similes* brought in support of *illogical Arguments*.——
 An *Ague* is compared to a *Rupture*, and because the Absence of the Fit on the intermittent days of a *periodical Distemper* is no Proof of a Cure, therefore the Disappearance of the Symptoms in a *continual Complaint* is equally inconclusive.

THUS much for our learned Serjeants ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE OF A RUPTURE. And how skillfully they have acquitted themselves as to the *Nature*, or how ingenuously as to the *Account* of this Distemper, we shall submit to the Reader's Determination ; and proceed to examine that part of the Performance which is intended to justify their Proceedings, in opposition to Mr. Lee, at *Chelsea Hospital* ; in which it will appear, that these Gentlemen are full as unlucky in point of *Fact* as they have been in point of *Opinion*, and that the one is as ill suited to establish their *Innocence* as the other to authorize their *Judgment*.

IT is agreed with our Serjeants, that Mr. Lee founded his application to the *Chelsea Board* upon a recommendation from Sir *William Yonge*, and several Certificates of Cures, two of which, it seems are now only to be found (or were perhaps thought proper for the public Inspection :) However, Mr. Lee thinks himself obliged for the communication of these, as they contain an additional Evidence of his Abilities, which had before been omitted as not essential in the Disputes between him and his Opposers. The Certificates are as follow :

“ *This is to certify, that I Robert Pitt, Coachman to Sir William Yonge, being troubled with a Rupture, did, in December 1747, apply to Mr. Ranby, Serjeant Surgeon, for the same ; who told me I*
was

was incurable; but that I might possibly find some benefit from a Truss, which, by his Direction, I got: But notwithstanding that, my Rupture came down very often, and was at last so troublesome that I was obliged to leave off my Truss, and continue without till November 1749, when the Rupture was as large as ever; and I, by Sir William Yonge's direction, then applied to Mr. Samuel Lee of Arundel-street, by whom I was, in three Weeks, cured, and have continued quite well in that respect ever since, though have continually drove the Coach and had a violent Cough. In Witness whereof, and that I now find myself quite well, I have set my hand this 28th of January, 1749."

Robert Pitt."

In order to invalidate the truth of this Certificate we are only told ———— "*That possibly this Man might apply to Mr. Ranby,*" ———— "*That possibly the Truss be directed, not being a good one, might fail in keeping up the Rupture,*" ———— "*That possibly, had it been well fitted, the Rupture might not have come down;*" ———— but ———— "*that it was absolutely impossible Mr. Ranby should say, that he was incurable.*" ———— To which the Reader may be apt to add, that all these *Possibilities* may *possibly* be true, and yet nothing to the purpose, since the only material point is, Whether the Man was actually cured? Which, if a Fact, our Serjeants might at least have added one more *POSSIBILITY*, with which they by no means seem inclinable the Public should be acquainted, viz. ———— "*That Mr. Lee can cure that Rupture, which Mr. Ranby cannot.*" ———— The other Certificate runs:

" This is to certify, that I John Sackville, aged 60, have been troubled with an Hernia (Rupture) for 30 Years last past, which for about three Years has been

been so bad that I could not walk five yards without the most exquisite pain; in September last I was examined by Mr. Ranby, Serjeant Surgeon, who then told Mr. Lee if he could cure me that he should then be convinced that he was able to relieve that Complaint, which he thought was by all deemed incurable. In witness whereof, and that I was compleatly cured by the said Mr. Lee of Arundel-street, and afterwards examined again by the said Mr. Ranby, who confessed the said Cure was compleated, and that I have not since had the least Symptom thereof, I have set my hand this 5th day of December 1749."

John Sackville."

must not the Credibility of this Evidence in Mr. Lee's Favour vanish at once when our Serjeants come with their *convincing Supposes*? — "*Is it (say they) to be supposed, that Mr. Ranby should tell Mr. Lee that if he cured this Man he should be convinced that he was able to relieve that Complaint, which he thought was by all deemed incurable*" — again — "*Is it to be supposed, (that though Mr. Lee produced the Patient in three months time with his Rupture up, and no Appearance of a Swelling) that Mr. Ranby should confess to Mr. Lee that the Cure was compleat,*" — and indeed whoever considers the Reluctance Mr. Ranby has shewn throughout these Transactions, to make such sort of Confessions, must allow there is some weight in the Objection, notwithstanding this new kind of Casuistry in confusing *Facts* with *Suppositions*.

BUT it seems Mr. Ranby was so far — "*from confessing the Cure compleat*" — upon this Evidence, that nothing less — "*than repeated Examinations, and that not of one man only but of Numbers perfectly cured*" — could induce him to give a Certificate in Mr. Lee's Favour, by which it appears, that as the

Numbers are *indefinite* and the Examinations *perpetual*, Mr. *Lee* had but a very distant prospect of receiving any Advantage from this scrupulous Gentleman's Testimonium.

THOUGH the Acuteness of our Serjeant Surgeons has enabled them thus fully to detect the Falshood and Insufficiency of these Certificates, yet it is apparent the Commissioners were unequal to so nice a Discovery, since upon this Authority they were pleased to order ——— “ *That Mr. Lee should make experiment upon such of the In-Pensioners as should voluntarily submit themselves to his Care.* ” ——— Thus much of the Order our Serjeants have thought fit to publish, but ——— “ *That for his Trouble and Attendance he should have a reasonable compensation* ” ——— is prudently omitted, in order, it is presumed, the better to reconcile it with that part of the Discharge by which it appears Mr. *Lee* was dismissed without any *compensation at all*.

WE are told by our Serjeants, they were told by Mr. *Chefelden*, that after this permission was given to Mr. *Lee* the following Terms were proposed to him :

FIRST, “ *That the Men should be previously examined by Mr. Chefelden as to the Condition of their Ruptures.* ”

What an evasive Advantage Mr. *Chefelden* took of this pretended Article the Reader will soon see.

SECONDLY, “ *That the Pensioners thus examined (if they were not known to him before) should be brought to him once or twice more that he might be able to remember their Persons, lest from the Similitude of Faces*

Faces or Uniformity of Cloathing he might mistake one Man from another."

Why the extream caution of this Article? Had Mr. *Chefelden* at this time reason to suspect Mr. *Lee* would be guilty of such unfair Proceedings as to palm false Men upon him, or did he foresee the heinous Mal-Practice he was afterwards charged with? ——— If Mr. *Lee* was then upon good terms with Mr. *Chefelden*, as not having yet committed the unpardonable *Sin* of *Cure*, was it decent to imply, by the very terms of his Agreement, that Mr. *Lee* was a Rascal, or would he have submitted to such an Implication? ——— But if Mr. *Chefelden*'s Eyes were so very subject to a Mistake, would not those of his faithful Assistant Mr. *Thomas* been able to rectify it, especially as the Precaution of taking down the Men's Names in writing was always strictly observed?

LASTLY (say they) it was agreed, ——— "*That whenever Mr. Lee should declare any of the Cures compleat, and desire Mr. Chefelden's final Report of them, he or his Assistants might then have the liberty of visiting and examining the Men as often as he should think proper, in order that they themselves might be witnesses whether the Men had entirely left off the Use of their Trusses, and that their Ruptures did not come down.*"

And how consonant Mr. *Lee*'s Behaviour was even to this other pretended Article of Agreement, the Course of these Transactions sufficiently testifies, which shews ——— That they had not only the liberty of visiting and examining his Patients *as often*, but were even pressed by him to do it *much oftner* than they thought proper ——— That Mr. *Chefelden* himself repeated his Examinations till even he declared his full satisfacti-

on in point of Cure ; but his *private opinion* and *public Certificate* were, it seems, two very different things : The first he thought he might safely give, as it could be of no Service to Mr. *Lee* ; the latter he prudently refused, as it might be of some Disservice to himself.

BUT how formal and circumstantial an Account is here drawn up, of a Treaty between two Parties who themselves had never a single Conference upon the occasion, and which has no other Foundation in fact than the following Circumstance ——— when Mr. *Lee* selected the first Sett of Patients, Mr. *Thomas*, the Assistant Surgeon, hinted to him ——— “ That it might be more satisfactory to the Commissioners if Mr. *Chefelden* and himself were to examine the Men prior to any Application of Mr. *Lee*’s, and as he was to dine with Mr. *Chefelden* that day they would, after dinner, make such Examination, and if they had any Objection to the Case of either it should be left in writing with the Man so objected to : But if by *Monday* no such objection was left, Mr. *Lee* was to proceed” ——— (See Narrative Page 9.) accordingly, no Objection being left, Mr. *Lee* proceeded in the Cures ; but sometime after, when they were produced at the Board perfectly well, and Mr. *Chefelden* and Mr. *Thomas* were examined to their Cases, the former (say our Serjeants) alledged—— “ *That he had not been privy to the Condition of the said Men before they put themselves under the Care of Mr. Lee, and therefore could not be thoroughly acquainted with the nature of their Cases, or judge of the Performance of the Cures.*” ——— It is to be observed, that not a word was at this time mentioned concerning the necessity of repeated Examinations, this Expedient was to be reserved for future Exigencies, and the only Objection then offered was the Want of previous Inspection : But it may be asked, How does it appear that Mr. *Chefelden* had not actually inspected them ? ——— Did not these
very

very Men receive Trusses by Mr. *Chefelden's* Orders? — Did not Mr. *Chefelden*, while they were under Mr. *Lee's* Care, tell the Deputy Governor, — “ *That two of the Men had but very small Ruptures, and one, viz. Hanna was not ruptured at all?* ” — Did he once, during the time of the Cure, make this objection of not having examined them? — Is it to be supposed, when Mr. *Thomas* dined with Mr. *Chefelden*, that they neglected the promised Inspection, or ought their Negligence to be pleaded in Mr. *Lee's* Disfavour? — But if Mr. *Chefelden* did not know these Men were ruptured, Mr. *Thomas*, by whom they were delivered into Mr. *Lee's* hands, could certainly have satisfied the Board in this point. — How candid therefore and equitable soever our Serjeants may pronounce this Conduct of Mr. *Chefelden's*, the Reader may be apt think it had some suspicious Marks of Evasion and Insincerity.

HOWEVER, seven more Men were taken at two different times under Mr. *Lee's* Care, and whom our Serjeants allow — “ *were previously examined by Mr. Chefelden, and though declared cured by Mr. Lee, yet no Report was made of any of them to the Board by Mr. Chefelden till the 16th of January 1750-1.* ”

Is not this Delay one of Mr. *Lee's* Complaints? And does it not shew what difficulty he had to drag his Opponents to a public Decision of his Pretensions? — “ At a Board held the 11th of *May*, Mr. *Chefelden* pretends he cannot conveniently attend himself, but will send for Mr. *Thomas* to carry his Report, whom he knew to be gone to *London* hours before.” — Mr. *Chefelden* is then ordered to make his Report the next Meeting, which, being held the 6th of *September 1750*, — Mr. *Chefelden* does not make his Report or Appearance, and is therefore again ordered to examine
Mr.

Mr. Lee's Patients without delay, and make his Report the next Board-day ——— which being held the 21st of November 1750, ——— Mr. Cheselden does not make his Report, but sends a Letter to misinform the Commissioners, ——— “ that Mr. Lee had two days before agreed that he should continue to examine his Patients one month longer,” ——— though Mr. Lee then assured the Board that he had not seen Mr. Cheselden for near two months before. ——— This produced another Order for Mr. Cheselden's personal Attendance the 28th, when he at last condescended to obey the Commissioners and made the following extraordinary Declaration, ——— “ That he had never examined any one Man that had been under Mr. Lee's Care.” — (See Narrative, Page 14.)

“ This Interval of time (says our Serjeants) till the 16th of January 1750-1, passed in continual Altercations between Mr. Cheselden and Mr. Lee, in relation to the different Methods of examining the Men; and that Mr. Lee was perpetually teasing and labouring by all Arts and Means to prevail with him to fix a peremptory day for the examination of these Men, on which single Examination Mr. Cheselden was to make a conclusive Report, whether the Men were cured or not, ——— still harping upon the Fallibility of a single Examination. But are Mr. Lee's constant Complaints to the Board, of Mr. Cheselden's refusals to examine his Patients, a Proof of Mr. Lee's insisting upon the Validity of a single Examination? ——— Is the Consent of Mr. Lee (and which is allowed by these Gentlemen) That Mr. Cheselden should inspect his Patients three times a week for one Month, a Proof that Mr. Lee depended on the Security of a single Examination, or ——— Is Mr. Cheselden's Letter to the Commissioners, informing them, ——— “ that Mr. Lee had consented he should continue the Examinations of his Patients one Month longer”

ger" ——— a *Proof* of Mr. Lee's refusing more than one Examination? ——— However demonstrative such kind of Inferences may appear to Mr. Lee's Opponents, he need be under no great apprehension of their prejudicing him in the opinion of the Public, who, from what has been said, it is presumed, will form a very different Conclusion: ——— That it was rather the Want of sufficient *Inclination*, than sufficient *Evidence*, that protracted Mr. Cheselden's surgical Fiat, and ——— " *that (to use their own words) he ought to have published Mr. Lee's Success to the World on such Authority as could not have been disputed.*"

" *It is to be observed (continue our Serjeants) that there had not as yet been any Proof produced to the Board, that Mr. Lee had performed a single Cure, besides his own and the Men's Assertions.*" ——— How should there, as Mr. Cheselden had constantly refused to do Mr. Lee Justice, by giving the Commissioners any satisfaction whatever? ——— But does this perpetual obstinacy and Neglect of Duty in Mr. Cheselden justify (as is insinuated) the Board's taking no Notice of Mr. Lee's Petition? And was not this tacit Submission, in some degree, a confirmation of Mr. Lee's and the Men's Assertions?

" *At length, it seems, Mr. Cheselden (poor Man) barrasted and tired out with Mr. Lee's Importunities, and unhappy lest the Commissioners should give any credit to the many Complaints Mr. Lee had made of him, resolved to do*" ——— What? Why, what he ought to have done long before, make a Report of the State of Mr. Lee's Patients. ——— But who would not willingly submit to a like Persecution to be so pathetically lamented by his physical Brethren.

THUS

THUS our Serjeants have assured us upon their words ——— “ That the only reason why Mr. *Chefelden* refused to examine the first Sett of Men was” — *Because he had not previously inspected them* : ——— “ That the only reason why he did not report the State of the rest was” ——— *Because he had not inspected them sufficiently* : ——— And ——— “ That the only reason why he refused to certify the Cures after a Month’s Examination was” ——— *Because another Month was necessary* : ——— All which is closed with this definitive Demonstration, ——— “ THIS WE WERE INFORMED OF BY MR. CHESELDEN HIMSELF. ——— Indisputable Evidence. ——— What! Prince *Volscius* kill Prince *Volscius* ! ——— Mr. *Chefelden* impeach Mr. *Chefelden* ! ——— but it should seem our learned Serjeants are not Logicians enough to distinguish, that all they have hitherto advanced amounts to nothing till they have first established these previous Postulata ——— 1st, *That because Mr. Chefelden told them so*, it must certainly be true. ——— 2dly, *That it is certainly true Mr. Chefelden told them so*.

WE are now arrived at the Board held the 16th of *January* 1750-1, when Mr. *Chefelden* made his Report, the whole Transactions of which (we are warned) ——— “ *require some Attention.*”

“ A Memorial of Mr. *Lee*’s (say they) was read at this Meeting, setting forth, that Mr. *Chefelden*, long before the Month’s examinations which had been agreed upon between them were compleated, told Mr. *Lee* that he might spare himself any further Trouble, since the Men were as well as ever they were in their Lives ; and that he found not the least appearance of a Rupture in any of them, and promised to make a Report in Mr. *Lee*’s Favour” — but how can this be true, ask our Serjeants, when Mr. *Chefelden* did actually report, ——— “ *That*

——— “ *That two of the three Men brought to him by Mr. Lee on the 3d of December had their Ruptures down, and ——— that two of four Men brought to him the Friday following had their Ruptures down.* ”———

This is somewhat like confuting a Fact by acknowledging the Commission of it; and from these Gentlemen’s new Method of Reasoning it should follow, ——— That it is impossible Mr. *Chefelden’s* Report should be disingenuous, *Because he made it.* ———

The Reader will however be pleased to observe, that at this time three Ruptures out of seven had disappeared from the penetrating Sight of this *Argus-eyed* Examiner ——— but, in order to give some degree of Sanction to the truth of this Report, the *solemn Testimony* of Mr. *Reid* attested by Mr. *Thomas*, both Assistants to Mr. *Ranby*, is since added by our Serjeants.

Friday, December 7.

“ *Mr. Lee brought to the Infirmary the following Men to be examined, John Hanna, Peter Curtis, John Tanner and William Storey ——— Mr. Chefelden, Mr. Thomas and I, examined three of them, viz. Tanner, whose Rupture was at that time up; Peter Curtis and William Storey, the Ruptures of both these appeared in the Groin; but Mr. Lee would not allow the Swellings that appeared in their Groins to be Ruptures, though Mr. Chefelden reduced them into the Belly with his Hand in my Sight.* ”

Though the Competence of these Witnesses might admit of some dispute, yet, even by their *solemn Testimony*, it appears, one Man was not at that time ruptured, and whether the others were so or no was at least a disputable matter, and tho’ Charity may induce us to believe these Gentlemen would not *sin* in point of *Fact*, it will be no breach of it to suppose they might *err* in

point of *Judgment*, and that too complaisant a Deference for the Opinion of their Master and Superior in Science might in some measure influence their Determination (which is no uncommon case in physical Consultations) ——— Would it not therefore have been somewhat more satisfactory, had they described the Nature and Dimensions of the Swellings, since all such are not ruptural? ——— Would not a Descent of the Intestines, or a Dilatation of the Opening thro' which they must pass, be rather a more evident Mark of a Rupture, and, had these Symptoms existed, is it to be supposed these nice Enquirers would have confined themselves to the general and evasive Term of a *Swelling in the Groin*, and that only in Appearance; and which, it is to be observed, Mr. *Chefelden's* hand alone was permitted to reduce? ——— Therefore, notwithstanding what our Serjeants have advanced in defence of their trusty and well beloved Brother, it may still remain a matter of some small doubt ——— *Whether Mr. Chefelden did not acquiesce in the Cure* ——— *Whether he did not decline any farther Examination*, and ——— *Whether he did not promise to report in Mr. Lee's favour*, especially as the whole was authenticated by the Oaths of the Men themselves; which, with those who (like our Serjeants) do not hold Poverty and Integrity entirely incompatible, may have some little weight.

THESE Gentlemen farther observe, that at this Board Mr. *Lee* insisted ——— “ *As Mr. Chefelden reported these Men not cured whose Ruptures were down, he ought, in justice to him, to report the others cured whose Ruptures were up* ” ——— and to which they can by no means assent; so that it seems, *up or down* ——— *Bandage or no Bandage* ——— *one Examination or several* ——— all are equally unsatisfactory: But these Gentlemen, it is apprehended, would not have made so
free

free with this observation had they remembered that it came from a much better Authority than Mr. Lee, since in reality it was the PAY-MASTER, who was pleased to observe ——— “ That as Mr. *Chefelden* reported only two of the Men not cured, he ought equally to report the State of the other two ” ——— which Mr. *Chefelden* evading, the Secretary was ordered to draw up a Minute ——— “ *That two Men were cured, and admitted to be so on an Examination of Mr. Chefelden's :* ” ——— But the Pay-master, still thinking this not strong enough, ordered it should stand ——— “ *That two Men were admitted to be cured on a Re-examination of Mr. Chefelden's.* ” ——— Who but must here observe the Difference between the Fact and their Account of it ! and does it not demonstrate, that whenever they find Misrepresentation convenient they are far from holding it to be unjustifiable ——— and tho' for Mr. *Chefelden's* Report they carefully examined the Minutes of the Board, yet this of the Pay-master's, which must stand in the same Page, was thought by no means proper to be selected for the Notice of the Public.

BUT after this point was decided our Serjeants inform us ——— “ Mr. Lee desired that four Men who attended without might be called in, and examined by Mr. *Chefelden* in the presence of the Commissioners, tho' they had been three times examined by him before ; and Mr. *Chefelden* being called upon to declare his Opinion specially of their Cures, said ——— *That for ought appeared to him two of the said Men were cured, he not finding the Orifices open.* ” ——— May not the Reader from all this suspect the Candour of our Serjeants in all they have hitherto advanced ? Will it not be objected ——— that Mr. Lee's Desire of so public an Examination, and that by his professed Enemy, was no great Sign of his Intention to deceive ? ——— Will his calling upon

Mr. *Chefelden* for a fourth Inspection of the same Men establish the Charge urged against him, of refusing repeated Examinations? — Will Mr. *Chefelden's* declaring *that, for ought appeared to him, two of the Men were cured*, be a just foundation for the Public's believing them not so? — And though the odd expression *for ought appeared to him* may denote Mr. *Chefelden's* Unwillingness to pronounce the Cure, it seems no very cogent reason for these Gentlemen's Conclusion — “*That he certainly did not believe it.*” — But our Serjeants for once venture to differ with their Brother, and though Mr. *Chefelden* thought the Orifice, being closed, was an Indication of Cure, they cannot possibly subscribe to his Opinion; yet, however ready they are to acknowledge Mr. *Chefelden's* Want of Judgment, they are particularly careful to conceal his Want of Ingenuity upon this occasion, by cautiously avoiding to acquaint the Reader that one of the Men Mr. *Chefelden* then allowed to have no Appearance of a Rupture, was the very identical *Peter Curtis* who, by his Report of the *same day*, is declared to be ruptured. (See the *solemn Testimony* of Mr. *Ranby's* faithful Assistants before mentioned.)

BUT say these Gentlemen — “*The Orifice being closed is no more than what is every day produced by a Truss,*” — if so frequent, may not their own Patients entertain some unfavourable Scruples for not being suffered to experience so salutary an Effect, and if — “*totally leaving off the Truss*” — is the proper Proof of Cure, what pity the Hospital, in which one of our Serjeants presides, has not been able to produce a single Instance of this Evidence in favour of his physical Administration, notwithstanding the sovereign Efficacy of this Machine.

THE NARRATIVE takes notice ——— “ that Mr. Lee was surprized at the Commissioners not permitting the Affidavits made in his justification to be read,” ——— but our Serjeants tell us ——— “ *Mr. Lee might have known this was the reception they would meet with*” ——— and indeed, had he at that time been as well acquainted with the intentions of the Board as they seem to have been, he should certainly have been of their opinion ——— “ *That no Credit would be given to these Affidavits of the Pensioners (even though the Men appeared to be well) in contradiction to Mr. Chefelden.*”

BUT it seems the SECRETARY AT WAR in particular concurred with the Serjeant Surgeons, as to the Invalidity of the Affidavits, and has given them permission in his Name to publish,

“ *That He had a very bad opinion of these old Men's Affidavits, and thought no Credit was to be given to them.*”

What! before he had seen them? ——— But how great an Act of Generosity must it appear in this *Honourable Gentleman* to supply the Deficiency of our Serjeants Credit with the Loan of his sterling Opinions, which, as they are now passed in public Payment, we may at least be permitted to examine into their Currency.

IN all Schemes of Fraud some Interest is proposed; but, in this Affair, what was to be the mighty Reward of these poor old Men's forswearing themselves! ——— Was the uncomfortable Situation of remaining in their afflicted State a Motive for their falsely insisting on a Cure? ——— Was the Inconvenience that might attend the rendering themselves obnoxious to their Rulers

lers sufficient encouragement to their falsely justifying Mr. *Lee*, in opposition to their Inclinations?—And is it not probable, had they offended in this respect, it would rather have been on the side of Power than against it? ——— Yet however vendible a Commodity Oaths are represented to be among these Men, it is apparent our Serjeants have not been able to procure a single one in their Favour; and if they had Truth on their side (as they pretend) must it not appear unaccountable that such a Number of Persons should discover so much more Alacrity in *justifying* the *Guilty*, than in *vindicating* the *Innocent*! ——— Has not this Point of Cure been more than once established in open Court, by the Testimony of *Gentlemen, Merchants, Tradesmen, &c.* Is then Perjury peculiar to the Pensioners, and only to them in this *particular Hospital*? Since the Veracity of those in *another* has never been impeached.

BUT we are told, Bribery has been practiced, and Poverty it must be allowed is susceptible of Corruption. ——— Was not, say Mr. *Lee*'s Opposers, ——— “FIFTEEN SHILLINGS *given to be spent among these Men?*” ——— Poor compensation for the Souls of so many Pensioners: And from whence one must be inclined to think, that these Men had full as little regard for their *Souls*, as the Surgeons seem to have had for their *Bodies*. Yet when the various Attendances of these *forsworn Wretches* on the Board, and the Serjeants themselves, on Mr. *Lee*'s Account are considered, this Bounty may perhaps be rather deemed a niggardly *Gratification* than an extravagant Degree of *Corruption*.

FROM all which the Candour of the Reader may induce him to think there is somewhat less of *Charity* than *Truth* in this *honourable Gentleman's* Reflection,
and

and that it still implies no contradiction to suppose, that ——— The *Oath* of a *poor Pensioner* may POSSIBLY be as true as the *Word* of a *Serjeant Surgeon*.

It will be perceived, that hitherto the learned Labours of these Gentlemen have principally aimed to exculpate Mr. *Cheselden*, and that on the *indisputable evidence* of his *own relation*; but as they now became Principals themselves in the following Transactions, we shall examine, whether they have not been full as unlucky in the justification of their own Conduct, as in that of their trusty Ally.

IN consequence of an Order made by the Board this 16th of *January*, ——— “ That Mr. *Cheselden* do
 “ examine the said four Men in the presence of Mr.
 “ *Ranby* and Mr. *Hawkins*, Serjeant Surgeons to his
 “ Majesty” ——— “ Mr. *Lee* (says the Narrative) pro-
 “ duced three of those Men, namely, *Hanna*, *Tanner*
 “ and *Storey*, together with one *Benson* who had never
 “ been ruptured in his Life, to these Gentlemen at
 “ Mr. *Cheselden*’s Apartment, when no objection was
 “ made to the Welfare of any but the last, who they
 “ very unluckily pitched upon as ruptured; and evad-
 “ ed certifying in what State they found them, because
 “ they pretended, as one Man appeared uncured, their
 “ Certificate could only be a partial one, and therefore
 “ desired a second Examination, to which Mr. *Lee*
 “ consented; and accordingly, on the *Monday* fol-
 “ lowing, attended the Serjeants by their own ap-
 “ pointment at *St. George’s Hospital*, with *Hanna*,
 “ *Tanner* and *Benson* (*Storey* being taken ill of a Fever)
 “ where each was inspected by the Triumvirate and
 “ several others of the Profession, at which time no
 “ objection was made to the Cure of either, even of
 “ *Benson* himself; but still they refused to certify that
 “ they

“ they had ever examined them at all : Instead of
 “ which they proposed Mr. *Chefelden*’s old Evasion,
 “ that Mr. *Lee* should take another Sett of Men un-
 “ der his Care, whom they would examine while ill,
 “ and when cured would certify.”

LET us now see our Serjeants account of the Trans-
 action at this Meeting, who tell us, — “ *That they*
first enquired, whether Mr. Chefelden knew the Men be-
fore him to be the same he had formerly examined and found
ruptured ? Who declared upon his honour that he believed
they were not all the same, only two or three of them” —
 in this Mr. *Chefelden* was pretty right, for there were
 but four in all, and *Benson* he had most certainly not
 examined before ——— a Proof however, by the way,
 that he was actually there.

“ *They then asked Mr. Chefelden, whether he knew*
those Men had been without their Trusses for any time
previous to that examination ? Who told them, Mr. Lee
had not permitted him to make any such Enquiry.” ———
 But how could Mr. *Lee* prevent it, as they resided in
 the Hospital ? And indeed the Men’s Breeches were
 almost continually unbuttoning to satisfy the Curiosity
 of the Surgeons, or their Assistants, in this point : But
 Mr. *Chefelden* might at least have informed these Gen-
 tlemen, ——— “ That he himself had examined
 three of them five or six times in different months,
 when they had no Trusses on or Ruptures down.

NEXT our Serjeants assure the Reader ——— “ *That*
they examined them all, and took notice that there was not
the least appearance in the parts which could induce them
to believe any Alteration whatever had been produced by
medicinal applications.” ——— Why this equivocal
 Expression ? Had it not been much more satisfactory
 to say, whether they had any appearance of a Rupture
 or no ? If by this they would have it understood that
 they

they were all *ILL*, how does it agree with *Benson's* Case? If that they were all *WELL*, how is it reconcilable with their Sincerity? But as this was the first time they had inspected them, how was it possible for them to know that *no alteration* had been produced in them by *medicinal applications*, especially as by their own account ——— “*the Ruptures were not down*” ——— nor could be brought down with all the Coughing, Jumping, and other Exercises imposed upon them? Though it is observable that, with respect to this last circumstance, a profound Silence is observed by our Examiners.

“*One only (say they) whose Name was Hanna, had his Rupture appearing in his Groin**; the Ruptures of the others were not down, but some Marks upon the Skin † made them distrust their Trusses had been wore within a short space of time.” ——— How artfully do they here, in order to save their credit, metamorphose *Benson* into *Hanna*! but if *Hanna* was the Man, why did they refuse to acknowledge *Benson well*, who had never been *ill*, as the Marks of the Truss could not appear round his Hips ——— if *Benson* was the Man, then it follows, that *Hanna's* Rupture did not appear; a circumstance as will be shewn hereafter was by no means convenient for them to allow. ——— And as the only Symptoms these sharp-sighted Examiners were able to discover of a Rupture was a Redness they thought they saw on the Hips, why should they be so much surprized, as they pretend, at Mr. *Lee's* Request of their certifying ——— “*The Men appeared to be well*” ——— or why should they refuse a Certificate of *only* in what State they found them, which in fact was all Mr. *Lee* desired. ——— May it not then be

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* In their Narrative presented to the Board ——— It is a small Appearance.

† Ibid. ——— They thought they saw Marks.

presumed, that this Refusal proceeded rather from the too favourable Appearance of Cure, than any conscientious Diffidence of it in these skilful Anatomists?

AGAIN they ask, ——— “ *With what propriety could they certify these Men cured, when they had no one Proof whatever of their being so, ——— when the Rupture of one appeared in the Groin, and with respect to the others ——— there was no Evidence that one part of them had ever been ruptured?* ” ——— To which it may be answered, might not they with still more Propriety have said, when they had no one reason to object to it, except the pretended Redness on the Hips (the usual Effect of the Waistband of the Breeches) ——— Is the Appearance of the Rupture in the Groin of *one*, a reason for not certifying the Non-appearance of it in the *other three*? And is not ——— *The Want of Evidence, that they had ever been ruptured*, an invincible Argument that they were at that time *well*, and if *well*, does it not follow that two of them at least, *viz. Tanner and Storey*, must have been *cured* since they were delivered into Mr. Lee’s Care by Mr. Cheselden himself as *very bad*?

It may be proper to remark how industriously they have endeavoured to puzzle the Reader in this place, with respect to the *Number*, in order to conceal the *Identity* of the Men produced at this Meeting. ——— “ *Several old Men (say they) attended* ” ——— “ *One had his Rupture down* ” ——— “ *Others had no Sign of ever having had a Rupture* ” ——— “ *Others whom Mr. Cheselden had known to be ruptured, no Evidence appeared of their having laid aside their Trusses* ” ——— Would it be imagined that all these amounted but to *FOUR*, and that these were *Hanna, Tanner, Storey and Benson*? But had they specified the *Number*, or *Names*,
they

they were cunning enough to discover that from their own account it would then appear, ——— They must either have found *Benson*, who had never been ruptured in his life, to be *ill*; or *Tanner* and ~~*Curtis*~~, who had *Star* been pronounced very bad by Mr. *Chefelden* himself, to be *well*; neither of which was proper the Public should be acquainted with.

BUT our Serjeants themselves seem to have had some Qualms of Conscience about hesitating to authorize the Welfare of these Men, by proposing a second Examination, so soon after as the *Monday* following, at *St. George's Hospital*, yet this Proposal they are willing to evade by observing ——— “ *That Mr. Lee, instead of new Men with Ruptures down for them to inspect, as fresh Subjects for him to cure, brought with him the same Men they saw at Mr. Chefelden's Apartment, to whom the same Objections they made before were still valid; this they declared to Mr. Lee, which was the whole that passed between them at the Hospital that day.*”

——— What! have they forgot the solemn Examination of these Men that day in the presence of several others of the Faculty? But confessing this might imply, that these were the *identical Men* it was agreed Mr. *Lee* should bring for *their Determination*, and not a *new Sett of ruptured Ones for their Inspection*. ——— Can it be supposed a *second Examination* should be meant, of those Men they had *never seen before*? Besides, it was thought still more necessary to conceal this Circumstance, as the Reader might expect to be acquainted with the Event of it, Whether they found the Men at that time *ill*, or *well*; if they pronounced the *former*, it might be rather too notorious a Contradiction to the Sense of so many Witnesses then present; if the *latter* it would by no means coincide with their Report at the ensuing Board, of ——— “ *two of the Men being ruptured.*” ——— From these Observations it is

not doubted but the plain and candid relation of this Transaction, in the NARRATIVE, will bid full as fair for Belief, as our Serjeants puzzled and evasive Account of it.

AT a Board held *April 24, 1751.* The Serjeant Surgeons again attended with Mr. *Chefelden*, when ——— “ *Mr. Lee (they tell us) was very earnest for an immediate Examination*” ——— how impolitic this; what, again exposing himself to the danger of a public Detection, while these Gentlemen more prudently prefer the Security of a private Determination; but the Pay-master enquiring if there were any among the Men whom Mr. *Chefelden* knew to have been ruptured, Mr. *Chefelden* named *Peter Curtis* and *John Tanner*; upon which Mr. *Ranby* and Mr. *Hawkins* were desired to examine them, who accordingly did, and inform us, this was their Report ——— “ *That their Ruptures were not down (this was the third time the Serjeants had experienced this unlucky Conviction with respect to Tanner) but they took notice that the Openings of the Muscles, through which the Ruptures used to descend, were large and unclosed, in such manner that they concluded their Ruptures would come down sooner or later, upon their using Exercise, and that these Men were not cured.*” ——— It is pity these learned Anatomists had not told us how large and unclosed these Openings were, though it is plain they were *small* and *close* enough to keep up the Rupture without a Bandage, which, perhaps, is all a Patient may require, or Mr. *Lee* pretend to; but how can this be deemed a Cure? — “ *since sooner or later it may come down again*” — yet, notwithstanding this terrifying Prediction, some may think it no uncomfortable Degree of Relief, to exchange a *present* and *certain* Calamity for such a *future* and *precarious* Return of it, and be very far from condemning him

him as an *Impostor* in point of *Cure* who was able to perform something *so very like it*.

THE Reader is next amused with a notable Discovery these Gentlemen at that time made, *viz.* ———
 “ *That one of the Men buttoned his Waistcoat into his Breeches, which they thought an excellent Substitute for a Truss.*” ——— What wretched Shifts must Men be drove to, when no less than three or four Pages are taken up to establish so very material a Fact; and does it not appear, that as the not having an *actual Truss* might imply no absolute Want of it, they were willing to seize any opportunity of adopting a *Substitute* in the place of it; since the Truth is no more than this: *Tanner*

Curtis, who is between Seventy and Eighty years of Age, had long accustomed himself to wear two or three Waistcoats, the under one of which being Flannel he constantly tucked in his Breeches, no uncommon practice with others, and which he had used many Years before he had the Misfortune to be ruptured. ——— Will not the Reader here be apt to apply the Fable ——— *Ridiculus Mus nascitur* ———

THIS is all the account our Serjeants have thought proper to give of the Proceedings at this Board, but not a Word of the following particulars.

“ THAT they then reported *Tanner* and *Curtis*’s
 “ Ruptures to be down, when they examined
 “ them at *St. George’s Hospital*.”

“ THAT they allowed them well upon their examination in an adjacent Room, but reported
 “ them ill on their Return to the Board.”

“ THAT upon the Commissioners and Sir *William*
 “ *Yonge*’s examining and inspecting the Men
 “ them-

“ themselves it appeared, that the Serjeants *had*
 “ *never before this day seen* Curtis, and that both
 “ he and *Tanner* were perfectly well.”—*Lastly,*

“ *THAT* though they had examined six ruptured
 “ Men the 2d of *February* preceding, at Mr.
 “ *Chefelden's Apartments*, in order for a farther
 “ tryal of Mr. *Lee's* Abilities, they now abso-
 “ lutely denied before the Commissioners that
 “ they had ever dined at Mr. *Chefelden's*, or ex-
 “ amined one Man there.” (See Narrative, P.
 19, 20.

WE are next informed, that three days after this Board was held Mr. *Chefelden* detected *Tanner* with his Trufs on, and, in revenge for which discovery, he made a very extraordinary Affidavit, to the following purpose: ——— “ *That Mr. Thomas, the assistant Surgeon, dragged him by force from his Bed, on which he was lying, to Mr. Chefelden's Apartments, at the door of which he saw the Serjeant Surgeons; that Mr. Chefelden offered him a Dram, which was not above a large Spoonful in a Glass, which he drank, but thought it did not taste like Brandy, though Mr. Chefelden told him it was.*” ——— If so, we are told (the Narrative observes,) ——— “ that it must be allowed to have produced a very unusual Effect; for the poor old Man
 “ was immediately seized with a violent shaking and
 “ trembling, which continued many days, attended
 “ with a great difficulty in drawing his Breath, inso-
 “ much that his death was hourly expected; but he
 “ happily recovered. ——— Now if it be considered
 “ how convenient bringing down this Man's Rupture
 “ would be to the Triumvirate, it requires no great
 “ Stretch of Credulity to suppose some forcing Medi-
 “ cine administred for that purpose, and which indeed
 “ seems to be the case; for the Serjeant Surgeon soon
 “ after,

“ after, waiting on Sir *William Yonge*, told him, that
 “ Mr. *Lee* had sufficient reason to be angry with Mr.
 “ *Chefelden*, but none with him.”

LET US now see in what decisive a manner, and with what Energy of Reason and Argument, the Credibility of this whole Story is at once destroyed.

“ *This Story* (say our Serjeants) *is all of a-piece, Mr. Ranby never said this to Sir William Yonge.*——*There is no such Medicine known as a forcing Medicine to bring down a Rupture* —— *His Illness, after he left Mr. Chefelden, is all a Fiction* —— *The Serjeant Surgeons were not at Mr. Chefelden’s* —— *There is no one circumstance true but Mr. Chefelden’s giving him a Dram.* —— Nevertheless, these Gentlemen, apprehending that their concise method of confuting Facts by mere Denials might not be thought altogether satisfactory, produce the following account given by Mr. *Thomas*, to the best of his memory (almost three years after) in aid of their Credit.

April 27, 1751.

Mr. Chefelden directed him to go to their Wards, after dinner-time, and bring Tanner and Curtis to him at his Apartment, which he did accordingly: Mr. Chefelden examined them, found their Trusses on, and on their Removal their Ruptures came down: Mr. Chefelden then expostulated kindly with them, asking Tanner in particular, how so old a Man, between 80 and 90 years of Age, with one Foot in the Grave, could go to deceive the Board and give false testimony, that he had left off his Truss, and even make an Affidavit of such a Falshood? —— The Men seemed concerned at Mr. Chefelden’s discourse, upon
which

which he gave them a Dram and bid them go and have a better way of thinking for the future.

How unhappy is it that this corroborating Account of their faithful Friend and Servant, Mr. *Thomas*, was not better calculated to answer the purpose intended. — Does it in any single Point authenticate our Serjeants Denials? — Does it not rather leave the Reader at full liberty still to conclude, that for aught appears to the contrary — Mr. *Ranby* might say this to Sir *William Yonge* — That there may be a forcing Medicine to bring down a Rupture — That *Tanner's* Illness might not be a Fiction — That the Serjeant Surgeons might be at Mr. *Chefelden's* Door — and that there may be more circumstances true than Mr. *Chefelden's* giving him a Dram.

BUT though this account of Mr. *Thomas's* unluckily proves no way advantageous to our Serjeants, it certainly was meant to be disadvantageous to Mr. *Lee*, by misinforming the Reader — “*That at this time the Ruptures did come down — That Mr. Chefelden expostulated with them for giving false Testimony to the Board, that they had left off their Trusses, and even making Affidavits of such a Falshood*” — yet perhaps it may seem somewhat odd that the Ruptures should come down at this *very private* examination, which had never done so at the many previous *public* ones; and that Mr. *Chefelden* should censure these Men for a Testimony they *had never given*, and Affidavits they *had never made*; all which happens to be the case. Is it then to be supposed, that Mr. *Chefelden's* kind Expostulations should so deeply affect these Men as to render his *reviving Dram* necessary to alleviate their Concern.

THO' enough has been said to evince, that an implicit Belief ought by no means to be the Result of this Deputy Surgeon's Relations, yet our Serjeants seem very desirous to establish those of his Master, as Articles of the Reader's Faith; and after some exalted Encomiums on his chirurgical Character ——— “ *Is it to be supposed (say they) that such a Man, retired as he was then from private Business in so honourable a public Employment, would not have rejoiced at an opportunity of introducing, under his own Patronage, so general a Benefit to Mankind as a speedy, certain and radical Cure of Ruptures?* ” ——— Aye; but as this Attempt was made in open Contempt of his *own Patronage*, and even to become a Sharer with him in his *so honourable and public Employment*, might it not somewhat abate his Zeal in a proper Encouragement of it? ——— Was Mr. Cheselden so totally unsusceptible of the Impressions of Pride, Vanity and Interest, as to be in no degree actuated by them whenever the Public Service came in competition? ——— And though Mr. Lee's Success might not injure him in a *private Business* from which he was retired, our Serjeants at least have no such presumptive Plea to countenance their Opposition, as one of them in particular has not yet approved himself such a *physical Patriot* as to resign the Emoluments arising from a *private*, the better to attend the Duties of his *public*, Practice

AGAIN (continue they) *Is it to be supposed that such a Man could be capable of using the lowest and basest Arts to stifle a Discovery which, if real and efficacious, he must be very sensible would very soon be proved so to the Public?* ” ——— Not altogether so soon perhaps, since these Gentlemen prudently reserve to themselves the sole Right of determining the Merits of it. ——— Might it not therefore with equal propriety be asked, ——— Why all this unexampled Industry to stifle

a Discovery which, if NOT *real* and *efficacious*, would *very soon* be proved so to the Public.

“ Mr. Ranby and Mr. Hawkins, we are informed, now thought (and it is presumed hoped) *this Affair entirely at an end, as from this time till the Board held 2d of April 1752, they heard but once from Mr. Lee, which was to desire their Inspection of the Men they had examined at St. George’s Hospital when ruptured, and who he then said were cured.*” — But these Gentlemen are willing to forget no less than three meetings within that Interval, the first when Mr. Lee waited on Mr. Ranby to thank him for some obliging things he had been pleased to say of him to Sir William Yonge, to which he answered, — “ that he thought they were no “ more than what he justly deserved, and promised, “ that, when either of the two Men he had last under- “ taken, viz. Harvey and Hamilton, appeared to be “ cured by a Bandage or any other means, he would “ gladly do any thing to serve him.” — Yet, however courtly he was in his Promises, he was full as courtly in the Performance of them; for on the *Thursday* following, when they again met Mr. Lee at Sir William Yonge’s, these two Men being produced (and though no objection was made to the Cures,) they refused to certify, *Because Mr. Lee thought it prudent to continue the Use of their Bandages some time longer.* Being then desired by Sir William to examine one Hanna, who attended at their own request, this they declined — *Because they had never seen him when ruptured.* — Sir William once more requesting their Inspection of one Morgan, who they had examined when ruptured at Mr. Cheselden’s Apartments, this likewise they refused, denying — *They had ever examined him at all,* and then took their leave.

THE third Meeting was on the 3d of *September*, when Mr. *Lee* again waited on Mr. *Ranby* to desire his farther Inspection of *Harvey* and *Hamilton*, above mentioned, examined by him at Sir *William Yonge's*, when he roundly denied *having ever examined any Men at Sir William's*, adding ——— “ *That as the Commissioners had left it to him and the other two Surgeons, he would take care that Mr. Lee should never be present at any future Examination, &c.* (in which point he has punctually kept his word.) Mr. *Lee* then observed, any farther application to him would be unnecessary, since one of the Men, viz. *Benson*, he had declared *ill* had never been ruptured in his Life. To which our Serjeant replied, ——— “ *That he would take care no more such Tricks should be played him for the future.*” ——— And thus they parted. (See Narrative, P. 22, 23, 24.)

IT is a little surprizing that all these Transactions should be deemed unworthy the least Notice in our Serjeants Defence ; but as the *Honourable Gentlemen* above mentioned was privy to so great a part of them, it should seem they feared their usual Method of Confutation, by round Denials, might here be dangerous.

AT a Board held the 2d of *April* 1752, the Serjeant Surgeons again attended ; but, instead of abiding a full and fair Examination of Mr. *Lee's* Patients before the Commissioners, only delivered their Opinions concerning the Cure of Ruptures in writing, by which they represented.

“ *That the Method of seeing and examining Men, who for ought they knew might have worn their Trusses till the time they were presented to them for Examination, could not give them any real and satisfactory*

Proof of their being cured, because those Ruptures which have been kept up by Bandage any time, seldom appear and drop down at once without Exercise, or some strong Motion of the Body, &c."

THE Progress of these Gentlemen's Infidelity is very observable. The only Criterion of Cure at first required of Mr. Lee is, *the Ruptures keeping up*: No sooner is this effected but the *Supposed Marks* of a Truss upon the Skin is held an Indication of the Continuance of the Distemper: These Symptoms being no longer pretended, now the *bare Possibility of having wore a Truss* is objected against the Ratification of the Men's Welfare: But why had they not procured even this degree of Evidence? Were not the Men resident in the College, were they not seen publickly every day, was Mr. Lee their Keeper? And after he had pronounced their Cure, had he any thing more to do with them? Were they not as much subject to the Command of the Surgeons, or other Officers of the House, as if they had never been under Mr. Lee's Care? Nay, do not our Serjeants allow that, with respect to two of them at least, Mr. Cheselden had obtained a *special Order* twelve months before, to inspect them as often as he thought proper, and can it be supposed that he was negligent in satisfying either his own, or their Curiosity to the full in this Point? Can then their Refusal to enter into an Examination at this time be thought to proceed from ——— "Mr. Lee's not having given them an opportunity of knowing whether the Men had left off their Trusses for any time?" ——— And if Exercise or a strong Motion of the Body will bring down those Ruptures which have been kept up by Bandages, had they not full conviction, that the severe Discipline of *Coughing, Jumping, Sneezing*, with some other more unwarrantable Methods had not been able to produce this Effect in Mr. Lee's Patients? ——— Must not the Reader

der therefore imagine our Serjeants Flight proceeded rather from a Consciousness, that the Men's Welfare would now be established beyond all contradiction, since two Gentlement then attended to examine them, whose Capacity to distinguish a Cure admitted of no contest, and whose Ingenuity in allowing it could not be suspected. However we are informed, that after their Departure two Certificates of Dr. *Thompson's* and Mr. *Mitchel's* were produced, the first setting forth, ——— “ That they had examined six of the Men in “ the *November* preceding, when they found them “ all cured, having no Appearance of their Ruptures “ at that time.” ——— The other informing the Board, “ That they had at that present re-examined “ the same Men, and found not the least Sign, Symp- “ tom, or Appearance of a Rupture, and all the Men “ declared they had not wore a Bandage for some “ months of any kind whatsoever.” ——— But in our Serjeants opinion this was not sufficient to authorize their Determination of a Cure, since they ought to have known whether these Men continued from *November* to *April*, ——— “ *without ever once wearing their “ Trusses ;*” ——— and therefore conclude these Gentlemen certified a great deal more than they themselves *possibly could* (or rather *willingly would*) yet the Doctor and Mr. *Mitchel* finding the Rupture reduced, and the Openings closed to the natural Dimensions at both these distant Inspections, might think it little to the purpose whether the Men had wore their Trusses *once*, or a hundred times, during this Interval ; since they knew the Truss could never produce such a Contraction of the ruptural Orifice in which alone the Cure consists. ——— But when Mr. *Lee's* Opponents are able to demonstrate that a Precaution to prevent the *Return* is a Proof of the *Continuance* of a Distemper, he will have Candour enough to confess the *once* wearing of a Truss in six Months, an evidence of the existence of a
Rup-

Rupture, and even resign all future pretensions to the Cure of it.

BUT it is not thought sufficient to dispute the Judgment of Mr. *Lee*'s physical Friends on this occasion: The Veracity of another Gentleman, who attended at this Meeting to testify his Cure, must likewise be impeached, by telling us, ——— “ *That when Mr. Roebuck gave his Evidence in Westminster-hall, in the Cause between Mr. Ranby and Mr. Lee, he swore he wore the Truss but a Day or two; yet when cross examined, he said he kept it on not more than a Fortnight.* ” ——— ’Till by a new kind of Arithmetic a day or two can be made more than a Fortnight, the Reader may not perhaps think this such a glaring Contradiction as to merit the following invidious reflection, ——— “ *Surely, from a Gentleman, at least a consistent Evidence might have been expected.* ” ——— Altho’ this Gentleman’s Character is as much above our Serjeants Malice, as they are below his Resentment, we shall satisfy the Reader whence this seeming difference arose. ——— The Exhibition of the Fire-works happening about a fortnight after Mr. *Roebuck* had left off his Truss, and he, apprehending that the Crowd and Tumult might affect so recent a Cure, thought it prudent to put it on again for that day; which Circumstance he recollected upon his cross examination, and included that time in his calculation: Thus, notwithstanding these Gentlemen’s Triumph, it was rather a scrupulous Adherence to Truth, than a Design of violating it, that occasioned this boasted Inconsistency. ——— AN EXAMPLE WORTHY THE IMITATION OF OUR CONSCIENTIOUS SERJEANTS.

THE following Minutes, say these Gentlemen, were entered upon the Proceedings of this Day.

John

John Ranby and Cæsar Hawkins, Esqs; *Serjeant Surgeons*, attended the Board, and declared their *Opinion in writing concerning the Cure of a Rupture.*

Mr. Lee, Surgeon, attended with Dr. Thomson and others, who gave their opinion on the same Subject.

And after considering what was offered on both sides, the Board came to the following Resolution :

That Mr. Lee may undertake the Cure of such Impensioners, afflicted with Ruptures, as should voluntarily put themselves under his Care, &c.

Does not this manifest whose Opinions appeared most satisfactory to the Commissioners? And if they had thought Mr. Lee's Pretensions unjustified, would they have agreed that — “ *He should receive 100 l. for his next Year's Attendance?* ” — Which Agreement, though made in the Presence of Dr. Thomson and Mr. Roebuck, was afterwards entered in their Books, with this material Alteration, — “ *That in twelve months after, the operations of his Cures will be considered by the Board, and he will be rewarded accordingly.* ” — At whose instigation this was done, we must leave the Reader to suggest.

MR. Cheselden dying soon after, Mr. Ranby no sooner succeeded this Premier in the Hospital but (we are told) He obtained an Order — “ *for him or his Deputy to examine, as often as they thought necessary, such Men as Mr. Lee had affirmed to be cured, which say they, implies having left off their Bandages entirely.* ” — How so? If a Cure consists in a Reduction of the Rupture, and Contraction of the Ori-

Orifice through which it descends, may not a Man who wears a Bandage be as effectually cured as one who does not? Should a Person who had never been afflicted with this Distemper in his Life put on a Truss, would our learned Anatomists, for that reason, pronounce him ruptured? Is the Precaution of an infirm old Man, in occasionally putting on, or even constantly wearing his Bandage, to be deemed a Continuance of the Symptoms? Is the Rupture down, because he wears a Bandage? Is the Orifice open, because he wears a Bandage? And if these Appearances cease to exist when it is off, who but our Serjeants would hesitate to acknowledge him to be well, though *he had not left it off entirely*? These Gentlemen seem to mistake the *Bandage* for the *Rupture itself*, since the mere Wear of it is to constitute the Distemper. — We must here beg the Reader to observe, how careful these Gentlemen have been to inculcate, throughout the whole dispute, this notorious Fallacy, that — “Because “ Mr. Lee’s Patients sometimes wore their Bandages, “ therefore they could not be cured :” — Tho’ Mr. Lee’s Pretension to cure, they well knew, were not founded on the *intire leaving off* the Bandage, but on the Rupture’s not falling down when it *was left off*, and which was frequently experienced for Weeks, Months, and even Years, — an Effect at least they have not been able to produce during their whole physical Administration in this Hospital.

BUT nothing less will serve our Serjeants purpose, than at once destroying the Credit both of Mr. Lee and his Patients; to which end they tell us, — “ Mr. Ranby was always very confident the Men were not cured; He had reason to suspect they still continued the Wear of their Bandages; and if he proved this, it would be a Matter of Fact, point blank, the contrary to what Mr. Lee had affirmed to the Board, and to what the Men
had

had sworn. But was it not incumbent first to prove, that Mr. *Lee* did *really affirm*, and the Men *swear*, what our Serjeants would insinuate; and as neither was the case, what then becomes of their Point-blank Contrariety? — “ Is the Men’s swearing that they were well, and, considering their Age, could walk as well as ever in their Lives, without feeling the least Pain, Pressure or Symptom of their late Complaint,” — is this swearing they had left off their Bandages entirely? — “ Is Mr. *Lee*’s affirming his Patients had left off their Bandages for a Month, or Months, in order to satisfy the Surgeons and the Commissioners, a proof of his Denial that they ever put them on afterwards?” — And can the Perjury of the former, or Falshood of the latter, be inferred from these Premises?

BUT the Reader by this time will perceive that *False Facts* (to use their own Phrase) and *False Reasoning* are the only Pillars on which they have rested their Defence, and that the Charge they have exhibited against Mr. *Lee* is comprized in the following Accusations:

First, His Refusal to admit of more than one Examination.

Second, That the Men did sometimes wear their Bandages. And,

Thirdly, That both Mr. *Lee* and his Patients deny this Fact.

Now if it appears, from what has been offered, that the first is *absurd*; the second *nothing to the purpose*; and the last a *downright Fib*; What is left for the Friends of these Gentlemen (if any such remain) but to wish they had either had a *better Cause*, or *abler Advocates* to defend it.

“ Mr. Chefelden (continue our Serjeants) *found his Suspicions well grounded with regard to Tanner and Curtis, and had his Life been spared, would in all probability have made the full discovery of the Wickedness of all the other old Men, which afterwards fell to Mr. Ranby's Lot.*” ——— What Wickedness? What, the having never sworn, or denied sometimes using their Bandages! and if this was the case, to what end was Mr. Ranby's first Enquiry, “ *to find out whether the old Men had really left them off?*” Why all this extreme Caution used by himself, his Assistants, and the Servants of the House (whom it seems he thought the most proper Evidence) to catch the Men off their Guard, in order to *deteet* what they were ready to admit? Aye, “ *but had they been sent for in Form they might have left their Trusses at home;*” a shrewd Sign this however of their not being so absolutely necessary: And should a lame Man do the same by his Crutches, some might be apt to conclude he had no great occasion for them. But upon these Gentlemen's Principles, must not Mr. Lee's Patients have even left their Skins at home likewise, since, by the Marks of the Truss remaining thereon, our Surgeons would have had all the Evidence they required of the Deficiency of their Cures. ——— Upon the whole ——— though we shall readily agree with our Serjeant Surgeons that some of the Men did ——— “ *sometimes wear their Bandages,*” ——— We can by no means admit the Conclusion, that — “ *they were therefore ruptured.*” ——— But it seems ——— “ *The Ruptures now came down immediately on the Removal of these Bandages.*” ——— Strange that this Effect should only be discoverable at their private examinations, since at a public one before the Board, April 24, 1751, it appears, on their Inspection of Tanner and Curtis, ——— “ *That their Ruptures were not down;*” ——— and is not this immediate and general Descent of the Ruptures, at this time, a justification of their Doctrine delivered

livered in writing to the Commissioners, — “ *That those Ruptures which have been kept up by Bandage any time, seldom appear or drop down at once.* ”

AT a Board held the 14th of *March* 1753, and of which particular care was taken Mr. *Lee* should have no notice, Six Men were produced and examined by the Commissioners, assisted by Mr. *Thomas*, — “ *and surely (say our Serjeants) the Commissioners were competent Judges whether the Men wore their Bandages still; and as to the Point of Cure,* ” — who was to determine? Why, Mr. *Ranby* and Mr. *Thomas*. But let us see what notable Evidence this examination produced.

“ *JOHN TANNER got a Fall about six months ago, and then his Rupture came down;* ” — to which they might have added, but not of the same side he had been cured: — “ *His Truss was on at the Trial* ” — True — “ *and his Rupture came down now.* ” — Possibly true too, as Mr. *Lee* had been no farther concerned for him since his last Accident, but giving him a Bandage.

WILLIAM STOREY has now his Rupture down — If you believe Mr. *Thomas*, — *Had his Truss on before he came into the Room.* — What then? — Went without a Bandage for four Months. — Tolerable Probation. — Mr. *Thomas* says, *his Rupture is now in the state it was when Mr. Lee first undertook his Cure.* — Bad Authority! and why not ascertain the State? — *Wears his Truss sometimes when he walks,* — deplorable Condition. — *The Rupture grown larger while he was under Examination.* — How much? — *Has made two Affidavits before Manley, and says he made but one* — ready to make a third to the contrary.

PETER CURTIS, *another Trial Man*, ——— another tried Man they should have said, ——— *his Rupture as small at first as it is now.* ——— How small was that, and who says so? Why, Mr. Thomas again. ——— *Wore his Truss till last week.* ——— Very likely. ——— *Wore it for Security and Warmth by the Advice of Mr. Lee.* ——— Good Advice. ——— *Made an Affidavit of his Cure before Manley, by the recommendation of Mr. Lee* ——— and Impulse of his own Conscience.

STEPHEN COWEL, A LARGE RUPTURE ——— When? At his coming under Mr. Lee's Care. ——— *Had his Bandage on before the Board.* ——— Allowed. ——— *Could not swear that he was cured,* ——— but thought so. ——— *Never left off his Truss.* ——— Prudence.

JOHN COULSON *cannot tell what he signed in his Affidavit* ——— because the Justice read it to him. ——— *Leaves off his Bandage by Night, but not by Day.* ——— May be true. ——— His Rupture now down, ——— says Mr. Thomas. ——— *Is well with a Bandage on.* ——— Impossible, say our Serjeants. ——— *To wear the Bandage by Mr. Lee's Order as long as he lives.* ——— Prudent Precaution. ——— *Had his Bandage on when he made Affidavit.* ——— Never denied it. ——— *The Contents of it were writ.* ——— As most Affidavits generally are. ——— *That he was well, for ought he knew.* ——— Well for their Patients, if they could say as much.

THOMAS MERRIMAN *says he is not cured, and found no Benefit from Mr. Lee.* ——— Because taken out of his hands into the Infirmary within a fortnight. ——— *But a Truss from Mr. Cheselden did keep up his Rupture.* ——— Unusual Effect, yet plain it did not cure

cure it. ——— *Mr. Lee reported he was cured.* ———
And would have remained so, had he not come into
their hands.

It is very remarkable, that these Examinations now taken, *viva voce*, should be almost literally the same as those in writing cooked up 8 months before by Mr. *Ranby*, Mr. *Thomas*, and other menial Servants of the House ; but as this was to determine Mr. *Lee's* Merits, surely his Presence was at least necessary to preserve the Air of Impartiality : Yet this it seems was a Circumstance to be particularly guarded against, for though our Serjeants could by no means be prevailed on to enter into a public Examination of Mr. *Lee's* Patients before the Board, when Doctor *Thomson*, Mr. *Mitchel*, and himself were present to confront them ; yet now they are very ready to submit to it, when left in sole Possession of their surgical Authority. But what were the Commissioners to determine ? Why, whether the Men had entirely left off their Bandages : A Point which has before been fully proved to be nothing to the purpose, the physical Determination was prudently reserved to Mr. *Thomas*, and his general Terms of the *Ruptures being down* ——— *in the same State it was when Mr. Lee first undertook the Cure* ——— *as small at first as it is now* ; however satisfactory to the Board, may not be deemed altogether particular enough to establish an universal Belief of the Deficiency of Cure ; especially when it is known, that all the Men then publicly insisted on their Welfare, in opposition to his Opinion. If this Examination was desired for a full and fair Satisfaction of the Commissioners, Why were those Men, to whom even the Continuance of the Truss could not be objected, thought improper Subjects of their Enquiry, more particularly *Harvey* ; as the Event of his Cure, it had been expressly agreed, should determine our Serjeants Judgment in Mr. *Lee's*

Fa-

Favour? ——— May not then the same Scruples still remain in the mind of the Reader concerning this Transaction, as are mentioned in the NARRATIVE, 1st, “ Because Mr. *Lee* was not permitted at this Examination to be present. 2^d, Because it was made “ by Mr. *Lee*’s Adversaries. 3^d, Because a Swelling “ is rather too precarious a Term to ascertain a Rupture, and which, instead of the Size of a Child’s “ head (once the case) may imply little more than a “ Pimple. 4th, Because the Men then affirmed their “ Welfare. 5th, Because Mr. *Ranby* had himself before allowed *Tanner* and *Curtis* to be cured. 6th, “ Because these two last had, in open Court, proved “ the same. 7th, Because Mr. *Ranby* had publicly declared, that he would never certify any thing in Mr. “ *Lee*’s Favour. And, lastly, Because Mr. *Lee*, (notwithstanding our Serjeants observation) still publishes in Capitals, ——— “ THAT HE IS READY TO SUBMIT THE WELFARE OF THESE VERY MEN TO THE CANDID JUDGMENT OF ANY IMPARTIAL TRIBUNAL.”

CAN it be conceived the Commissioners would have paid any Regard to this Farce of an Enquiry, had not the same Fallacy been imposed upon them which these Gentlemen have all along endeavoured to pass upon their Readers, viz. ——— “ *That the Continuance of the Bandage was a demonstrative Evidence of the Continuance of the Distemper.*” ——— And might not the Misinformation given the Board, that the Men had affirmed, and even sworn, they had entirely left off their Bandages, create a Suspicion of Mr. *Lee*’s Ingenuity, and be a Motive of his Dismission.

ABOUT this time we are told, Mr. *Ranby* delivered in a dreadful Muster-Roll of *Examinations*, *Certificates*, and *Declarations*, in Proof of Mr. *Lee*’s Insufficiency
in

in the Cure of Ruptures, &c. but as most of these are almost in the same Words, and founded upon the same Principles with the Examination of the six Men before mentioned, we shall not tire the Reader with a particular Detection of them, especially as they have no better Sanction than the disputable Authority of Mr. *Ranby* himself, his trusty Assistants and their Apprentices, Apothecaries and their Journeymen, with some other inferior Officers of the House ; the few who have been prevail'd on to sign their Declarations it is notorious no Arts were left unattempted to gain, Threats were to intimidate the obstinate, Promises to encourage the willing ; but it is pleasant enough to observe how our Serjeants would avail themselves of the *bare Declaration* of the very same Men whose *Oaths* they have all along endeavour'd to invalidate ! Thus their Interest is to be the Criterion of Truth, and just as *Cure* or *no Cure* is the Word, they become either *perjur'd Rascals*, or *creditable Witnesses* : However, it may not be amiss to bestow a few cursory Remarks on this Bundle of Evidence, as far as it relates to the Men who have themselves signed their Declarations.

Two of these Certificates are taken up to prove, that “ *Serjeant James Morgan refused to be examined ;*” By whom ? by Mr. *Ranby's* Deputies ; who were continually teasing him and the rest of Mr. *Lee's* Patients, by pulling down their Breeches, and seizing them wherever they found them, either in their Wards or in the Street. *Morgan* therefore insisted they should examine him no more, without Mr. *Lee* or some of his Friends were present ; and for this High Crime and Misdemeanour was sent Prisoner to the Guard-house, where he shew'd the whole Guard that he was cured, and had no Bandage ; after which he was discharg'd the Hospital without any Examination.

BROCAS's Declaration is introduc'd to prove,——
*that he was cured by Mr. Lee, and had left off his
 Bandage three Weeks; but, by a Fall when he was
 drunk, got ruptur'd again.*—— An Accident Mr.
 Lee will undertake to prevent, when these Gentle-
 men will allow that a second Fracture is a Proof that
 the first was never reduc'd; but the Man's present
 Complaint, that he has never been able to obtain the
 least degree of Relief from Mr. Ranby ever since, is
 deem'd an Article of no Importance to the Public.

JOHN WELCH *says, that he paid Mr. Lee 2 Gui-
 neas in part, but was not cured.* The reason of Mr.
 Lee's taking the Money was, that he was not a Pensio-
 ner in the Hospital, and kept a House in *Jews-Row*.
 The reason why he apprehends he was not cured at this
 time is, —— Because Mr. Ranby had, unknown to
 him, taken off his Bandage and put him on a Steel
 Truss.

HOWEVER atrocious an offence it may be in Mr. Lee
 to expect a consideration for his Assistance, yet it is a
 Species of *Mal-Practice* which perhaps these Gentle-
 men's Patients may not totally acquit them of; but the
 Charge on which the next Certificate is founded is of a
 very different nature, that of *Giving*, not *Receiving*.

WILLIAM FIELDING (*it seems*) *was worse for Mr.
 Lee's Attendance,* —— this, at least, must be allow'd
 a singular instance, and —— “ *he received so much
 pain from Mr. Lee's burning Medicine that it took the
 Skin off his Groin.*” —— Certainly this Man's Skin
 must be of a more delicate Texture than that of all Mr.
 Lee's other Patients, who it is not even pretended ever
 experienc'd any similar Effect; but *burning Medicine*
 was thought a proper surgical Scare-crow, to be set
 up in *Terrorem* to the Public. Last of all, this Man

“ once

“ *once receiv'd a Treat, and several times Money from Mr. Lee*” — but the consideration of this Bounty is prudently conceal'd: the first was an Acknowledgment, as has been before hinted, for the various Journeys he had made on Mr. Lee's Account; the latter, an Act of Charity, when, in a high Fever, all Medicines were refus'd him at the Hospital, only because *He was Mr. Lee's Patient*.

RANDAL COLEMAN *says he was some time under Mr. Lee's Care, but was not cured*. — A very common physical case, and not at all extraordinary in this, as Mr. Lee never dress'd him but three times, and the Rupture being small the Man desir'd nothing farther than a Bandage.

JOHN WARDEN's Declaration is calculated for the Benefit of the Truss-maker to the Hospital (an Instance at least of Mr. Ranby's Regard for his Brother Placeman and Fellow Practitioner) “ *the Steel Truss was more effectual in keeping up his Rupture than Mr. Lee's Bandage,*” but certainly not in curing it, since, after having been kept twelve Months in Irons, he is pronounc'd as bad as ever. But how could the Continuance of this Man's Illness be plac'd to Mr. Lee's Account? and tho' Mr. Lee's Bandage *would not keep up this Man's Rupture*, it seems it was all-sufficient for that purpose with the next.

JOHN HENRY, who declares, “ *that during the two Months he wore Mr. Lee's Bandage it kept up his Rupture, and that he would have continued longer under his Care but that a Misunderstanding arose between Mr. Cheselden and Mr. Lee.*” An excellent Article of Indictment against Mr. Lee, for not having cured him! but more Bribery again: this Man was likewise invited to partake of the *Fifteen Shillings* spent at Hanna's.

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JOHN

JOHN HAMILTON confesses, “ *that at times, when he has a Cough, which is generally from the time the cold Weather begins, he always wears his Bandage by way of Precaution.* ——— Demonstrative Proof of the Deficiency of Cure. ——— But lest this should be thought too favourable a Symptom, they make shift to persuade him that *something* comes down now and then, but not *so low* as it did before; and Mr. Thomas once made the lucky Discovery of something like a Pin-cushion in the Waistband of his Breeches, which, like the Waistcoat before mention’d, is immediately vested with the Virtue of a Truss.

RICHARD BURBRIDGE, we are inform’d, “ *had been two whole Months under Mr. Lee’s Care, when a Fall brought down his Rupture again.* A Proof, by the way, that Mr. Lee in so short a time had produced the salutary Effect of keeping it up, and which, for aught these Gentlemen know, might have remain’d so had not this Accident happen’d: ——— but it is certain the Benefit this Man receiv’d was by no means adequate to the Pain occasioned by Mr. Lee’s Medicines, which oblig’d him to *keep his Bed Nine Days.* ——— Another chirurgical Scare-crow.

HOWEVER our Serjeants may plume themselves upon the above Declarations, yet their Triumph is somewhat clouded by being obliged to confess that there was one, *viz. Harvey*, who had pass’d thro’ their physical Inquisition without being convicted of having any Traces either of Rupture or Bandage remaining; and how unlucky is it that this should be the *very Man* on whose Cure our Serjeants themselves had agreed to rest the determination of Mr. Lee’s Pretensions. It can hardly be suppos’d these Gentlemen would have selected the most favourable Subject on this occasion, and if it was as they then pronounc’d it, a *very bad one*, we have
this

this Instance, at least, that Mr. *Lee* can cure a very bad Rupture, which is all we have aim'd to prove, and they have so industriously endeavour'd to conceal from the Public. ——— Suppose Mr. *Lee* to have fail'd in the particular Cases they have mention'd, Has he not succeeded in others? and ought not this to be rather a Foundation for Encouragement than such an unexampled Opposition, especially as his first Proposal was only to be of *more Service in this Distemper than had hitherto been experienced in our Hospitals?*

But it seems the Testimony of *living* Witnesses was not deemed sufficient to Mr. *Lee's* Conviction, the Bodies of the *Dead* are likewise to be ransack'd in search of Evidence against him; and the following awful Certificate is usher'd in, in no less than two or three Places:

Whereas it hath been reported, that John Hanna, whose dead Body we have this day inspected, was perfectly cured of a Rupture, under which he some time labour'd, We do hereby certify, that the Perforation of a Rupture on the right side was so large as easily to admit of three Fingers: a most certain Proof that the said Hanna had not been cured of his Rupture.

24 July.
Signed in my Presence,
H. Fielding.

Benjamin Hoadly,
Messenger Monsey,
C. Hawkins,
T. Hawkins,
W. Hunter,
D. Middleton.

If the *Extension* of this Perforation is now to be held a certain Symptom of the Disease, ought not the proper *Contraction* of it to be allow'd a Proof of the Cure? yet this we have seen our Serjeants could no way be induc'd to admit. But is it not somewhat strange that, in such a relaxed State of the Body, the Rupture should

not have been *actually down*, especially as there was nothing to prevent its Descent, and which must have been considerably forced by the Agonies of Death? yet, whatever magnifying Spectacles some of these Gentlemen might make use of for the Discovery of this *horrid Chasm*, it is certain one of them, and the very Person who opened the Body, was oblig'd to apply to Mr. Lee for Information to know on which Side the Man had formerly been ruptur'd. Another Gentleman of the Profession then present, but not of their Sett, seeing the violence with which they bored their Fingers into the Part, observ'd, "That it certainly was possible by a proper degree of Force to open a Passage for the whole Hand down into the Scrotum:" Nor could this Gentleman agree with them in another material point, which indeed was the principal one this Consultation was summoned to sanctify, *viz. That the Man died a natural Death.* Surely there is something very singular in *Hanna's Case*; no sooner had Mr. Lee selected him for Cure, but Mr. *Chefelden* assures the Deputy-Governor, *he was not ruptur'd*: no sooner is he cur'd, but the utmost Efforts are made by the Triumvirate to prove him *ruptur'd*. And if this pretended Perforation was so large when dead, is it not even miraculous that when Mr. *Ranby* met him, just before he died, in the King's Road, and made him unbutton his Breeches to shew he had no Bandage on; is it not, I say, miraculous that the Rupture should not then drop thro' so *capacious* a Passage, particularly as he was walking, and that so lustily, as made our Serjeant tell him, "*He was sure he must have a Bandage on, or he could not walk so well.*"

THE Reader's Surprise, that so great Solitude should be shewn by our Serjeants to prove this Man in particular ruptur'd, will cease when he is inform'd, that this was one of the 4 Men who were produc'd at
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the *Duke's Apartments* to testify his Cure, and, when Mr. *Ranby* afterwards told *His Highness* that he had detected *two of those very Men* wearing their Bandages, join'd in an Affidavit that they had *never seen Mr. Ranby, or wore a Bandage*, from the time of their being so produced.

AFTER our Serjeants had been successful enough to procure Mr. *Lee's* Dismission from *Chelsea*, they were still apprehensive that his Appointment in another Hospital might induce a Distrust that something more than mere Demerit was the Occasion of it, and therefore thought it convenient to sanctify their Proceedings by the Verdict of some of their Brother Practitioners; nor was this the first time they had sought Refuge in the Sanctuary of a physical Inquisition, which was always too complaisant to refuse Protection to Brethren in so elevated a Station: accordingly we are told, “ *Mr. Ranby invited several of the principal Persons of the Profession to dine with him, in order to obtain the following Certificate.*

July 13, 1753.

The following In-Pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, viz.

- * *Stephen Cowel,*
- * *John Colson,*
- * *John Brocas,*
- * *John Hamilton,*
- * *William Storey,*
- * *John Tanner,*
- * *Peter Curtis,*
- Thomas Merriman,*
- Thomas Clark,*
- William Fielding,*
- Randal Colman,*

were

were severally examin'd by us whose Names are under-written ; they had every one of them Trusses on, upon the Removal of which Trusses all the Ruptures, except Peter Curtis's, came down.

John Ranby,
Cæsar Hawkins,
D. Middleton,
Peter Saintbill,
Edward Nourse,
Robert Adair,
Samuel Sharp,
Joseph Paul,
William Hunter,
John Thomas,
Alexander Reid,

As here appears to be a Surgeon to every Man, it may be expected they should have been a little more particular in the description of their several Cases, and not by such a *lumping Certificate* exact an implicit Belief, in what was intended (if intended for any thing) to furnish Matter of Conviction ; but as the Mystery of this Examination may, by our Serjeants, be thought of too solemn a Nature to be communicated to vulgar Ears, we shall be prophane enough to expose such part of it as has come to our Knowledge.

THUS then say the Men themselves ; and, as they are not upon Oath, perhaps they may bid fairer for our Serjeants Allowance of their Credibility.

STEPHEN COWEL. Mr. *Ranby* order'd me to take off my Bandage, and then said ——— “ See, this Man is not cured, and he has taken an Oath that he is cured.” ——— One Gentleman then touched me, and
Mr.

Mr. Ranby again said, — “ *He is not cured.* ” —
But the Gentlemen never spoke a word. — I was
then sent out.

JOHN COLSON. I was ordered to loose my Bandage; Mr. Ranby then said, — “ *He is not cured, and this Fellow has been with Lee since.* ” — The Surgeons never touched me, and I was turned out.

WILLIAM STOREY. Mr. Ranby first told the Surgeons, — “ *That I had swore before Mr. Manley that I never was to wear a Bandage, and that he took it off the next day.* ” — After this they bid me take off my Bandage, and then made me Cough and Jump for about a Quarter of an Hour, and without touching me bid me withdraw.

JOHN TANNER. Mr. Ranby first said, — “ *If I can do it, your Ears shall be cut off and nailed to the Pillory, and you turned out of your Bread for ever:* — then said, *It is pity such an ancient Man as you should be served so.* ” — I then took my Bandage off, and one of the Gentlemen touched me; then Mr. Ranby said, — “ *You may see he is not cured:* ” — And the Gentleman answered, — “ *I cannot see that any thing ails him.* ” — I was then ordered to put up my Breeches and go out.

PETER CURTIS. Mr. Ranby asked — “ *If I wore a Bandage?* ” — I answered, Yes. The Gentlemen then asked, — “ *if I was cured?* ” — I said Yes; and only wore my Bandage by way of Precaution. I then took it off, and the Gentlemen examined me, when, I declared, — I was as well as any Man in the World: Mr. Ranby said that — “ *I was an impudent Fellow.* ” — Then some more of the Gentlemen examined me: I was then ordered to walk
round

round the College several times, and up and down three pair of Stairs, 'till I was quite tired. — Then I returned to the Surgeons, who again examined me, and said, — *I was just the same as I was before.*" — Mr. Ranby then insisted — "*that I was as bad as ever I was.*" — Several of the Gentlemen then examined me again; and I said, — *Take a Knife and open me, and I will stand it; for I am as well as any Man in England.* — *Then I was turned out.**

N. B. POTTS, one of the Men Mr. Lee had last undertaken by Order of the Board, then offered himself for Inspection, but was not admitted.

AFTER so nice, so critical, and so *truly Surgeon-like* an Examination, is it not amazing that these poor deluded old Men should still persist in their Welfare, and be infatuated enough not to think themselves obliged to make a Surrender of *only two* of their Senses to the Authority of such an infallible Judicature, a Judicature which, from all appearance, must even be endowed with *supernatural Talents*, since nothing less than the Gift of a *Second Sight* could certainly enable them to discern what neither the Patients themselves, or any other Person who had not the *Microscope* of a *Diploma*, could possibly discover. It is plain these Gentlemen were far from having the incredulous Curiosity of the APOSTLE, and thought thrusting their Fingers into the Man's *Side* by no means a necessary Article of Conviction; but perhaps the Professors of the *Old Baily* may have the same prudent BY-LAW with those of *Warwick-lane*, "*That no junior Graduate shall, on any occasion, presume to call in Question the Judgment of his Senior:*" If so, we may rather wonder

* *Hamilton* was not asked a Question. Some of the other Men are dead, others can't be found, and *Brocas* told them as in his Declaration.

wonder that *one* of these Gentlemen should be found to differ with our Serjeants in point of opinion, than that *all* should sign so plump a Certificate in support of it. ——— “ *The Ruptures came down,*” ——— say they, but not a Symptom is to be explained, whether of the Caul or the Intestine ——— Whether in the Groin or in the Scrotum, nor are the *Dimensions* thought a Matter of any necessary Information ; yet, as we find they were not *large enough* to convince the Men themselves that they were really ruptured, they may perhaps be thought *too small* to convince any one else (besides these Gentlemen) of it. ——— These learned Practitioners well knew that even a Swelling in the Parts is far from being any certain Mark of the Distemper, and if any such had appeared, would not a *Reduction* of the Rupture have afforded them the most unerring Evidence of its *Reality* ; but it appears, several were dismissed *untouched*, and almost all *unquestioned*, by these Examiners ; they were too polite to be inquisitive, and too *regularly bred* to dispute our Serjeants concise determination, ——— “ *He is not cured,*” ——— and which definitive Sentence seems solely to have directed the Opinions of the whole Board on this chirurgical Inquest.

MAY it not excite some unfavourable Suspicions that, among so many Surgeons, Mr. *Lee* should be the *only one* that was thought improper to be summoned on this occasion : Or was it consistent with the *Candour* of these Gentlemen, to proceed in an Affair which so materially concerned the *Interest* as well as *Reputation* of a Brother Practitioner, in his Absence ? ——— Might not Mr. *Lee* have informed them of some particulars which our Serjeants would by no means be inclinable should come to their Knowledge ? And if the *former* was to be excluded, why were the *latter* not only to be admitted, but even suffered to preside at the Head of

that *very Jury* whose Verdict was to determine the Rectitude of their *own Conduct*? Has not Mr. *Lee* then ample reason to enter his Protest against a Sentence obtained under such partial Circumstances, especially as former occasions have evinced that his Brethren in general are far from being the *most forward* Advocates, or Witnesses, in his Favour? ——— Has not Mr. *Lee* annihilated some of their *ruptural Annuities*? And though we should not presume such a consideration could possibly pervert their *Integrity*, it may be supposed to give some little inclining Bias to their *Judgment*. ——— *Quod volumus facile credimus*. ——— How sacred soever these Gentlemen's Characters are represented to be, if they are not totally unfusceptible of the Frailty of Human Nature, they may probably experience some small Emotions of Spleen at Mr. *Lee's* Pretension to excel them in any one particular Branch of their Profession; for, as Mr. *Locke* observes, ———
 “ Would it not be an insufferable thing for a learned
 “ Professor, and that which his Scarlet would blush
 “ at, to have his Authority of Forty years standing
 “ over-turned in an Instant by an upstart Novelist,
 “ and he made to confess, that what he taught his
 “ Pupil thirty years ago was all Error and Mistake.”
 In short, the only material Points this Certificate seems to establish are, ——— That these Gentlemen certainly dined with Mr. *Ranby*, and were very grateful for their Entertainment.

YET however full this Certificate may be thought, “ *That on the Removal of the Trusses all the Ruptures came down,*” it is not still compleat enough for our Serjeants Wishes, as being qualified with the *exception* of Peter Curtis's, and therefore they warn the Reader that ——— “ there is something worth notice in his
 par-

particular Case, whose Rupture did not come down this day," ——— and inform us,

<i>His Rupture was down,</i>	December 7, 1750.
<i>Was not down,</i>	April 24, 1752.
<i>Was down,</i>	June 27, 1752.
<i>Was down,</i>	March 14, 1752.
<i>And this Day was not down,</i>	July 15, 1753.

All which, say they, is sufficient to convince any one, ——— “ *that a single examination can give no Proof that a Person is perfectly cured.* ” ——— Or how, upon these Gentlemen’s Principles, would it be at all more satisfactory, if these Examinations should be *repeated to Eternity*? But however this may convince, it will certainly *surprize* the Reader, ——— That this Man’s Rupture should only luckily be *down*, when the Triumvirate or their Assistants were in sole possession of the Enquiry; and unluckily *up*, when any other Persons were concerned in the determination of this Point.

THUS have we examined every material Part of these learned Gentlemen’s Performance, thro’ which, if the Reader has had patience to follow us, he will at least think it strange that Mr. Lee should have been so *peculiarly unfortunate* as not to have effected one single Cure, even though he made use of that *all-sufficient* Remedy, a Truss; and which, upon our Serjeants own Authority, in growing Persons ——— “ *worn for a proper Length of time proves a certain and infallible Cure,* ” ——— In grown up Persons, ——— “ *often compleatly cures,* ” ——— and, in Old Men, “ *sometimes perfectly cures.* ” So that it seems this surgical Machine is only ineffectual when applied by Mr. Lee. ——— But will not the Public think it still stranger, that this *fatal Spell* upon Mr. Lee’s Practice should be

confined to the Walls of *this Hospital only*, since his Success in *another* has received the Sanction of indisputable Authority; and where *single Examinations* could not be pleaded in justification of Doubt, but every Means were as *fully*, tho' somewhat more *fairly*, made use of to detect an Imposture, as those practised by our Triumvirate themselves, tho', it must be confessed, the poor Men were left in possession of their *Seeing* and *Feeling*, without incurring the imputation of *Perjury* for adhering to the Evidence of two such *deceitful Senses*.

UPON the whole then, Why this Distemper should be so *manifestly* curable at GREENWICH, and so *obstinately* incurable at CHELSEA, is a physical Phenomenon, we shall leave the Faculty to explain, and will only suppose, that there must certainly be some essential difference between a *Marine* and a *Land* Rupture; or that the *Air* of the two Places is not *equally* suited to the success of this Operation, since upon these principles it is only possible to *justify* our Serjeant Surgeons *Conduct*, and account for the following odd kind of Contrast in the same Character.

At CHELSEA.

Mr. *Lee* is an Impostor.

Mr. *Lee* has been guilty of Mal-Practice.

Mr. *Lee* never cured one Pensioner.

Mr. *Lee*'s Cures are denied by Serjeant Surgeons.

Mr. *Lee*'s Patients are not to be credited on Oath.

At GREENWICH.

Mr. *Lee* is an able Surgeon.

Mr. *Lee*'s Conduct is unanimously approv'd.

Mr. *Lee* cured upwards of Forty Pensioners.

Mr. *Lee*'s Cures are acknowledged by Surgeons of his Majesty's Yards.

Mr. *Lee*'s Patients are credited without an Oath.

Mr.

Mr. *Lee*'s Patients' Ruptures are always down when inspected by his Opposers, but always up when inspected by indifferent Persons.

Mr. *Lee*'s Patients' Ruptures are always up when inspected either by Friends or Foes.

Mr. *Lee*'s Patients never leave off their Bandages

Mr. *Lee*'s Patients frequently leave off their Bandages.

Mr. *Lee* is deem'd unworthy his stipulated Salary.

Mr. *Lee* is thought worthy more Advantages than his Salary.

Mr. *Lee*'s Merits are determin'd by the Representations of his chirurgical Adversaries.

Mr. *Lee*'s Merits are confirm'd by the Sanction of the Surgeons of his Majesty's Yards, and the whole Board.

Mr. *Lee* is condemn'd by a Board of 5 Commissioners.

Mr. *Lee* is justified by a Board of Forty Governors.

Mr. *Lee* is discharg'd with Ignominy.

Mr. *Lee* is continued with Honour.

As our Serjeants NARRATIVE (every Part of which is more fully set forth in the preceding part of their Defence) seems only to be inserted in hopes a *Repetition* of Facts should be mistaken for a *Multipliation* of them, we shall forbear taking any notice of it; and after having exposed the Insufficiency of their *pretended Answer*, only by way of Appendix, recapitulate some material Facts, to which they have been too prudent to give any *Answer at all*.

A P P E N D I X.

AS the Serjeant Surgeons have prudently passed over the following *Facts*, it may be presumed the Reader will be induced to place them among the *Credenda* of the NARRATIVE.

Page 8, It is said ——— “ That upon Mr. *Lee*’s first going to the Hospital, Mr. *Thomas* produced only three miserable Objects, almost expiring with other Complaints, as Subjects for the Experiment : ” ——— to which Mr. *Lee* objecting, He was told, ——— “ *Those were all afflicted with Ruptures in that Hospital ;* ” ——— but applying to the Deputy Governor, the next day he found no less that *Thirty-six* impatiently waiting for relief. ——— Mr. *Thomas* being reproached with this Disingenuity, answer’d, ——— “ *That Mr. Cheselden and he did not trouble themselves about such old infirm Fellows as were afflicted with Ruptures, for it was not worth their while to have any thing to do with them.* ”

Page 9. Mr. *Cheselden* is charged with telling the Deputy Governor, ——— “ *That two of the Men Mr. Lee selected for Cure had but very small Ruptures, and that one, viz. Hanna, was not ruptured at all ;* ” ——— tho’ Sir *Robert Rich* confirmed his being discharged his own Regiment for that Distemper, and on his admission into the Hospital being reported by Mr. *Cheselden* himself to be ruptur’d very bad.

Page 13. Mr. Cheselden is accused of sending a Letter to the Board, informing them, ——— “ *That having met Mr. Lee two days before, it had been agreed between them that he should continue his Examinations of the Men one Month longer,*” ——— tho’ Mr. Lee had never seen him for near two months before.

Page 13, 14. It is observed, ——— “ That Mr. Lee, being directed to produce the Men he had cured, at the Board the 28th November, for a final determination of the Affair, found, upon his going to the Hospital the day before, Orders had been given that None of the Pensioners should stir from the Hospital the Board-Day ; upon which he procured the Affidavits of the Men to their Cure, and that Mr. Cheselden had examined them, which, on Mr. Cheselden’s Denial at the Board, ——— “ *That he had ever examined one Man who had been under Mr. Lee’s Care* ——— he produced, somewhat to this Gentleman’s Confusion.”

Page 14, sets forth, ——— “ That an Agreement being made that Mr. Cheselden should examine the Men for one whole month, he, after three Examinations, declared ——— “ *That Mr. Lee might spare himself any farther trouble, since the Men were as well as ever they were in their Lives, and that he found not the least Appearance of a Rupture in any of them, promising to make a Report the next Board-day in his Favour :*” ——— Yet on the 16th January, 1750, reported, ——— “ *That two of the said Men had their Ruptures down at the time he examined them, and that the Examination was given up at Mr. Lee’s Request.*”

Page 17 alledges, ——— “ That our Serjeant Surgeons and Mr. Cheselden, upon an examination, declared

clared a Man, viz. BENSON, to be ruptur'd, who had never been ill of that Distemper in his Life." *

Page 19 charges our Serjeants with reporting to the Board held *April 24, 1751*, ——— " That they had examined *Peter Curtis*, in particular, at *St. George's Hospital*, and found his Rupture down," ——— when it appeared they had never seen that Man in their Lives, ——— and who, being then called in before the Commissioners, was found to be perfectly well.

Page 20 informs us, ——— " That tho' the Serjeants had examined six ruptured Men at *Mr. Cheselden's Apartments*, in order to be put under *Mr. Lee's Care*, yet at this Board they denied ——— *Having ever examined one Man there.*"

Page 20. The Serjeants are accused of publicly declaring ——— " *That they would never certify any thing in Mr. Lee's Favour.*"

Page 22 acquaints us ——— " That our Serjeants refused to examine, at *Sir William Yonge's House, Harvey and Hamilton*, ——— *Because they had not entirely left off their Bandages* : ——— to examine *Hanna*, ——— *Because they had not seen him when ruptured* ——— to examine *Morgan*, who they had before acknowledged to have inspected at *Mr. Cheselden's*, ——— *Because they now said they had never examined him at all.*

Page 24 says, ——— " That four of the Pensioners were examined by several Noblemen and General Officers at the Duke's Apartments, all of whom seemed satisfied of their Welfare; but *Mr. Ranby* soon after assured his Royal Highness ——— " *That he*
had

* N. B. Our Serjeants, in order to acquit themselves of this unlucky mistake, think it sufficient to change the Name of *Benson* into *Hanna* ; but this Evasion has been fully exposed in our Reply.

bad, since the Examination, been at Chelsea, where he found two of the aforesaid Pensioners wearing their Bandages, and ruptured as bad as ever." ——— In contradiction to which an Affidavit of the four Men was presented to his Hoyal Righness, setting forth — " That Mr. *Ranby* had never spoke to them, or had they wore any Bandage from the time they were produced to the time Mr. *Ranby* had so mis-informed his Royal Highness."*

Page 46, 77 Exposes our Serjeants ——— " unfair, tho' unsuccessful, Endeavours to defeat Mr. *Lee's* Appointment at the *Greenwich* Board."

Page 48 to 75, shews ——— " how incontestibly Mr. *Lee's* Cures were established, in open Court, by Gentlemen, Merchants and Tradesmen, as well as the Pensioners of both Hospitals," ——— on all which our Serjeants have not bestowed a single Remark, except that frivolous one relating to Mr. *Roebuck*.

Page 83, complains ——— " That none of the Men who were put under Mr. *Lee's* Care, after his Agreement with the Commissioners, were examined either by *them* or the *Surgeons*," ——— so that the very services that were to entitle him to the *Reward* were the *only ones* left uninquired into at the Determination concerning it.

SOME scrupulous Readers may be apt to think all these particulars required at least some *alleviating* Justification ; but our Serjeants, finding *Faëts* too stubborn for their *Casuistry*, deemed Silence their best Security,

K

N. B. Our Serjeants are weak enough to imagine that their now saying, it was *two other Men* they detected with Bandages on, *viz.* *Tanner* and *Curtis*, is sufficient to clear them of this intentional Imposition.

curity, and had they observed the like prudential Caution with respect to the *rest* of these Transactions, they might have been less *exposed*, if not less *criminal*.

SHOULD any one be of opinion that too *great a Freedom* has been taken with these dignified Professors, in the course of this *Reply*, let the Provocation prove our Apology; and surely some little spirited Sallies may be excused when it is considered, that not only the *Livelihood* of Mr. *Lee* was to be the Victim of his Opponents Malice, but every Page of their Performance is pointed at his *Reputation*, and calculated to stigmatize him with the odious Crimes of SUBORNATION and IMPOSTURE; yet, however deficient Mr. *Lee* may be thought in point of *Decency*, he is determined not to offend in point of *Gratitude*, but make this public Acknowledgement of his Obligations to these Gentlemen, for the *additional Emoluments* he has experienced in Practice from *their Opposition*, tho' perhaps an accidental Advantage they by no means intended him.



P O S T S C R I P T.

AS, by way of Postscript, a Letter is added in proof of the new discovered Virtue of the Truss, to render Men serviceable, we shall produce a recent Instance to prove that neither this *miraculous Machine*, or even our Serjeants *Judgment* itself, is sufficient to prevent *serviceable* Men from being deemed, and paid, as *unserviceable*.

JOSEPH PHILLIPS, late of the Hon. Colonel *Howard's* Regiment, aged 48, was discharged at *Inverness* in *October* 1752, and admitted on the *Chelsea* Pension in the *December* following, for a Rupture; he was sent by his Colonel (with two others who were discharged the same Regiment for the same Complaint) to Mr. *Lee* about two months since, who inspected them and informed the Colonel that *Phillips* was not ruptured: the Colonel told him he must certainly be mistaken, for not only the Surgeon of the Regiment had certified it, but he had been reported so on the Examination of the *Surgeons at Chelsea*. Mr. *Lee* still persisted in his opinion, and proposed satisfying the Colonel, with any other Gentlemen he should think proper, in this point: accordingly, some time after, he attended at the Colonel's House, where, in the Presence of several Persons of Quality and Distinction, he tapped the Scrotum and brought away above a Quart of *Water*. ——— What opinion must the Public then entertain of our Serjeant's learned ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE OF THIS DISTEMPER, who, it appears, was at least capable of mistaking a *Hydrocele* for a *Rupture*.

N. B. There is reason to think that many of these mistaken Cases may be found among the Pensioners, and those on the Bounty List, who very unnecessarily remain useless to their King and Country, and burthensome to the Revenue.

F I N I S.

ERRATA.

P. 35. Line 4. for *Curtis* read *Storey*.

P. 37. Line 14. for *Curtis* read *Tanner*.



