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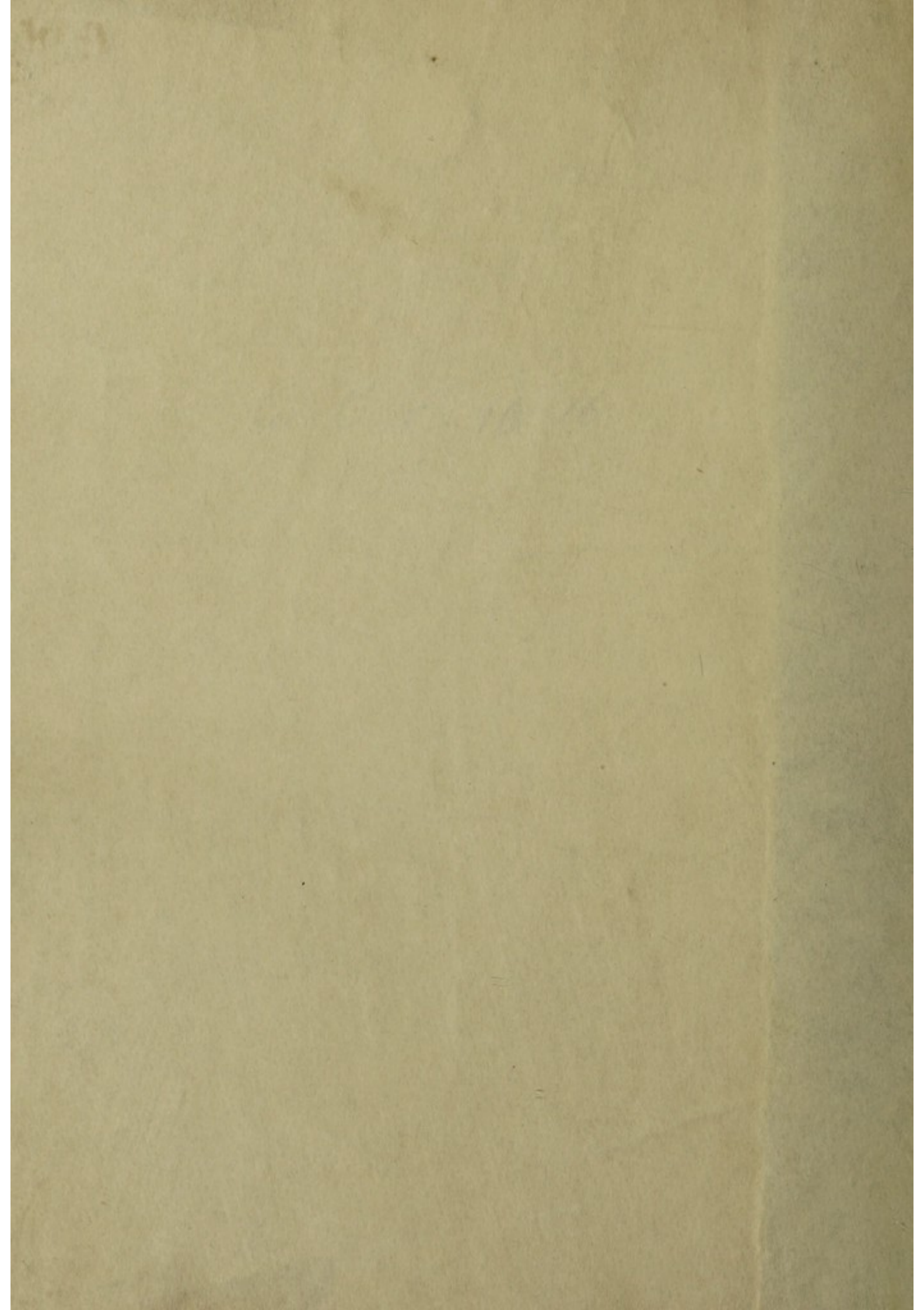
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C A S E S
IN
S U R G E R Y.

COLLECTED IN

St. Bartholomew's HOSPITAL.

By J. FARMER, Surgeon.



L O N D O N :

Printed for J. HINTON, at the *King's-Arms* in
Newgate-street.

M.DCC.LVIII.

1852
MAY 15
RECEIVED

CASES
IN
SURGERY

COLLECTED BY

Dr. Farquhar's Hospital

W. J. FARMER

LONDON

Printed by J. Johnson, at the 'Sun' Office, No. 7, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

TO THE
R E A D E R.

AS it is not Ambition, or through a lucrative View, that I publish the following Cases, I hope the Reader will pardon any Mistake; and if this Treatise, however small, contains nothing remarkably new, yet I still hope it contains nothing very absurd, and, at the same Time, shall be very well pleased if the young Practitioner is able to find any useful Hints therein mentioned, that may be some Direction to him in similar Cases; and, if it answers my Expectation so far, it will amply repay me for my Pains. I shall desist making any further Apology,

And am the Reader's

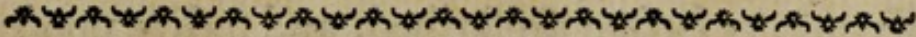
Most obedient Servant,

J. Farmer.

SELECT
C A S E S
IN
S U R G E R Y.

Collected in

St. Bartholomew's HOSPITAL.



C A S E I.

A Brewer's Servant had the Misfortune to fall into a Copper of hot Liquor, and scalded both his Legs; Blisters covered the whole Surface of both Limbs; they were immediately clipped: Rags dipped in Oil were applied to the Parts affected, and were repeated as soon as the former Dressings

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grew

grew dry. The Man being of a sanguine Habit of Body, it was thought necessary that he should be bled pretty largely, which was accordingly done; a purging Mixture was afterwards ordered him, four Spoonfuls of which were given him every six Hours, and to be repeated till he had a Stool. Upon my coming next Morning and taking off the Dressings, I found both Legs continued violently inflamed; he was then bled largely again, ordered to drink plentifully of Barley-water, repeat the purging Mixture, as before prescribed, and to live upon a very light Diet: His Limbs were continued to be anointed with the Oil, and an emollient Cerat, spread upon a Rag, to cover the Whole. The purging Mixture not having the desired Effect, it was thought proper an emollient Clyster should be given him, which was accordingly done, and answered the Purpose extremely well; the inflammatory Symptoms abated, his Fever grew considerably less, the Sloughs
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threw

threw off, the Wounds began to put on a florid Appearance, all bad Symptoms began to abate, and Granulations sprang up apace; the Wound was then dressed with the common Detergents, and, by keeping him to a light Diet, giving him now and then a purging Mixture, the Wound incarned, and the Man grew perfectly well.

C A S E II.

A Taylor, who being in Liquor and a little quarrelsome, his Companions threw him down, and his Head fell upon the Fender, and by the Violence of the Fall received a great Contusion on the coronal Suture; taking no Care of it, and being a loose, disorderly, drunken Fellow, it grew very bad; a violent Inflammation ensued. Upon coming into the

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Hospital,

Hospital, and his Head being examined, Matter was found to surround the whole Pericranium; it then appeared necessary that there should be no Delay in making the several Openings, necessary to prevent the Matter already lodged from bringing on a Caries of the Cranium, which was accordingly done in different Directions; the First was above the Ear, obliquely; and in making this Opening divided a Branch of the temporal Artery, which was obliged to be taken up, and accordingly was; but before the next Morning, the Man being restless, it bled again; it was again taken up, and then it remained pretty quiet: Between each Opening that was made, thick Compresses of Plaister were laid, to prevent the Matter from lodging and corroding the Membranes, which indeed, I must say, answered to Admiration; and likewise here must take Notice, that, if the Scalp was to have been taken off wherever there had been a Sinus or

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Lodgement

Lodgement of Matter, the Pericranium must have been left quite bare: Large Sloughs, the Breadth of my Hand, were thrown from underneath the Scalp, yet, by Compresses of Plaister, proper Bolsters of Tow, and the double-headed Roller judiciously applied, it all happily united. I think this Case evidently shews that a Surgeon should not be too busy with his Incision Knife and Scissars, when, by making a little Use of his Understanding, he may come at the Cure by much easier Methods; and, if he can, I think it ought to be done, though he is ever so dextrous in handling the Knife. During the Course of the Cure, the Man complained of violent Head-achs, which I cannot in the least wonder at, considering his irregular Life and the Violence of the Contusion; however that was obviated by letting of Blood when his Pains were great, and now and then giving him a purging Mixture. The Man was turned out perfectly well.

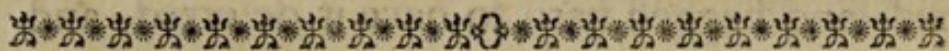
C A S E



C A S E III.

A Man, who received a violent Wound by a Cutlafs, from a Street-Robber in *Smithfield*, had three of his Fingers cut quite through the Bone, fo that they hung only by a Bit of Skin.—However ftrange this may appear to fome of my Brethren, I declare it to be an absolute Fact (as are all the Cafes here ftated) and are not Cafes taken from any Author; but are what happened under my own Infpection in the Hofpital. But, to return to the Point, I carefully replaced the Fingers in their original Situation, and, by the Affiftance of one of the Pupils, united them together with neat Strips of Sticking-plaifter, defiring him to keep quite quiet, and to live upon a flender Diet; placing his Hand in a Sling, and not opening them till the Expiration of three Weeks,

Weeks, they did extremely well. This Case evidently shews that Sticking-plaister is much preferable to Needles, as they are subject to bring on an Inflammation: I now am speaking where there is the least Probability of Success.



C A S E IV.

A Young Woman, aged about Twenty-five, had a violent Inflammation upon the Tibia; she had been under several Surgeons Care in the Country, but without any Relief, or the least Prospect of Success; and, being quite worn out with Pain, she at last came to a Resolution to come to *London*, and seek Relief in some of the Hospitals; she accordingly pitched upon St. *Bartholomew's*. Upon a Consultation it was agreed, by every Gentleman then present, that the Bone was foul; the poor Girl was soon made sensible of their Opinion:

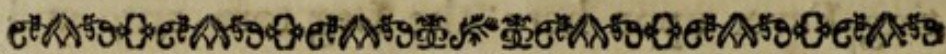
Opinion: It was then necessary to declare their Intention of laying the Bone bare, and the best Method was judged to be by a Caustic, and that was the only Chance remaining, and the only Way to have a perfect Cure. At this Proposal the Girl seemed a good deal terrified, and begged hard to have it deferred, and try whether it would not do by making Use of a milder Treatment: Accordingly her Desire was complied with; she was immediately bled, emollient Cataplasms were ordered, cooling Purges were administered, but with no Success; the Inflammation continued as violent as ever. When all Attempts to relieve her were found fruitless, she consented to come to the Remedy at first proposed, of having the Bone laid bare, which was to be done by Caustic; I laid it on immediately, and it continued about fourteen Hours, at the Expiration of which Time the Caustic was removed; an Incision was made the whole Length, quite down to
the

the Bone; the Eschar was dressed with a soft digestive Medicine, till it threw off: Nearly the whole Substance of the Tibia was carious, which gave Rise to a great Deal of fungous Flesh, which proved very troublesome. The Method taken to destroy it was by Caustics, such as Lapis Infernalis, &c. but that Method was found to be endless, so that the actual Caution was obliged to be made Use of; it was used about six Times in the Space of a Fortnight, when the Girl had an intermitting Fever upon her; the Leg tore out, and the gastrocnemius Muscle was sphacelated; but, by the Help of proper internal Medicines, her Fever abated, and the Sloughs separated. As we had no Appearance of an Exfoliation, the Caution was again had Recourse to, for every, or every other Day; and so continued, as it seemed necessary, for near sixteen Weeks, when the Bone was perceived to move, which afforded no small Satisfaction to the Girl;

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and, in a very little Time afterwards, by continuing to destroy the loose Flesh that rose about the Edges with the Caustic, the Bone moved more and more every Day, till at length it came away, which was seven Inches in Length. The Wound was afterwards dressed with the common Detergents; and, by continuing now and then some purgative Medicines, the Wound was healed, and the Girl went down into the Country perfectly well.



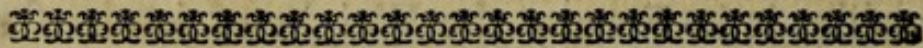
C A S E V.

A Midshipman of a Sloop of War, who had been troubled with the Stone from his Infancy, came into the Hospital to be cut; a Day or two before the Operation a Purge was given him, by Way of Preparation, and, the Morning he was cut, he had an emollient Clyster given him, which came away very well.

About

About Eleven o'Clock he was brought into the Cutting Ward, to undergo the Operation: It was with some Difficulty that the Stone was extracted; upon viewing it, its Size appeared to be nearly that of a Duck's Egg, and not unlike it in Form; the Weight of it was six Ounces exactly. He was dressed up and put to Bed, and a quieting Draught was ordered to be given immediately, which was accordingly done; but he had very little Rest all that Night, complained of violent Pains in his Bowels, and a Sickness at his Stomach, accompanied with a violent Reaching; his Fever was violent. Proper Draughts were ordered him every six Hours; but, notwithstanding all this, the above-mentioned Complaints continued, the Wound had a crude Appearance, and the Complaints of his Bowels became more and more vehement. A comfortable Clyster was then ordered directly to be thrown up, and another to be in Readiness, if the first had not the de-

fired Effect; but all these Precautions were to no Purpose. I chiefly attribute his Death to his own Irregularity before he was cut, and not minding any Directions after the Operation.



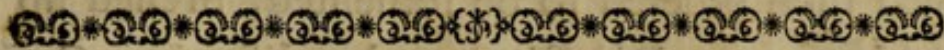
C A S E VI.

A Captain's Steward of an *Indiaman* was seized with a pleuretic Fever, on Board his Vessel; and, by his own Neglect, an Inflammation and Adhesion of the Lungs ensued, which came to a Suppuration: He sent for me to a House in the *Old-Bailey*, and, upon viewing his Side, I saw a Swelling about the Size of a Pigeon's Egg; he told me the Complaints he had been troubled with ever since he had been on Shore, such as great Difficulty in Breathing, restless Nights, &c. I told him what I thought would in all Probability ensue, and what I then told him afterwards proved Mat-
ter

ter of Fact, for the Swelling grew considerably larger, but without the Flesh being greatly discoloured; he had such violent shooting Pains in the Cavity of the Thorax, that it was very rare, for a Fortnight together, to have an Hour's Sleep at a Time.—The Man was wasted to a Skeleton; nothing would fit in his Stomach; profuse Sweats were a constant Attendant: In short, every Thing that was bad accompanied his Disorder; whenever he had an Inclination to walk, he was obliged to go almost double, and was continually crying out with the Pain he daily underwent; quieting Draughts were a little Ease to him, without the Help of them it was impossible to withstand the Attack of so much Pain. I told him quieting Draughts might give him some Relief, but that they would not remove the immediate Cause; and that nothing but an Operation by the Knife or Launcet, to give Discharge to the confined Matter, could in any Shape relieve him,

him, and without that Relief he must inevitably die. Upon this Proposal, for the Sake of his own Life, he consented to the Operation; and I accordingly, the next Morning, performed it, Mr. *Stubbs*, Surgeon, of *Leighton-Buzzard* in *Bedfordshire*, being then present; and discharged a Quart of Matter from the Cavity of the Thorax. The Man was immediately easy, and told me he had been a Stranger, for a long Time together, to so much Ease; I then dressed up his Wound lightly with some soft Medicine, and the next Morning put in a Cannula, made with Lead, with Sticking-plaister rolled round it, dipped in the Medicine; and so continued for a long Time together. A great Quantity of thick Matter discharged itself every Day, but by Degrees it decreased in Quantity: The Man lived upon a light Diet, and in a short Time he became perfectly well, and set out for another Voyage to the *Indies*.

C A S E



C A S E VII.

A Young Man, who was Porter at Mr. *Veer's* China-shop in *Fleet-street*, was cleaning some Pistols, about the Time the Rebel Army was advancing towards *London*; not suspecting they were loaded, he accidentally touched the Trigger of one of the Pistols, which, to his great Surprise, went off; the Ball first grazed upon the Table, and afterwards went into the Back of his left Hand: He was sent directly to *St. Bartholomew's* Hospital, but, upon the strictest Examination, no Ball could be felt; it was dressed up with a warm digestive Medicine, and a discutient Poullice laid over the Whole, bleeding him moderately, not having lost any Blood from the Wound. The next Morning there appeared a great Inflammation, extending itself up the Arm; it

was then ordered to be fomented, dressed up with a warm Digestive, and a discutient Cataplasm to cover the Whole. The Man, being feverish, took a Fever Mixture every six Hours, but still continued a good Deal out of Order; the Inflammation, which was so violent, did not disappear: An Abscess soon after formed itself in the Palm of the Hand, upon opening which with a Launcet, a large Quantity of Matter discharged itself; the Sinus was laid open with a Pair of Probe Scissars, to give the contained Matter a free Discharge; and dressed down close, to keep the Edges of the Wound from uniting. Another Abscess soon after formed itself just above the Wrist, betwixt the Radius and Ulna, the Matter of which was discharged by laying on a Caustic the Size of the Tumour; when the Caustic was removed, a crucial Incision was made into the Tumour, through which Opening, the Matter having a free Discharge, the Eschar was dressed with a soft digestive Medicine till it was quite thrown
off:

off: But, soon after this, the poor Fellow was so unfortunate to be seized with an intermitting Fever; the Wounds tore out, and, in short, there was great Danger of a Mortification; fresh Sloughs separated, by the Help of the Bark given internally; though the Wound was greatly enlarged by the Tearing out of the Sore, no Ball could be felt, notwithstanding the greatest Pains were taken in searching after it: The Ball passed in upon the Back of the Hand; but no Passage out could be found. Small Abscesses were continually forming either in the Hand or Arm, which were opened, either by Incision or Caustic, to give a free Discharge to the confined Matter. The Wounds soon healed, but fresh ones came in their Room; for if they were healed one Week they broke out the next: The Motion of his Wrist and Fingers was rendered useless. As all that was done for him was to no Purpose, and no Ball could be found, he was advised to part with his Arm: Sometimes he consented to it, but,

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when the 'Time came, his Resolution failed; so that, in short, he was told he had nothing else to do but to keep the Wound open, to give as free a Discharge as possible to the Matter. He was discharged, and went down into his own Country.

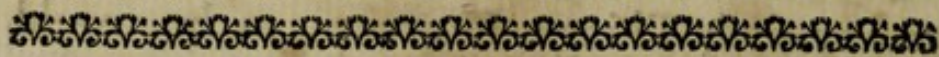


C A S E VIII.

A Soldier, who was at the Battle of *Fon-tenoy*, received a Wound in his right Arm, by a Musket-ball passing through betwixt the Radius and Ulna; it occasioned a great Laceration of the Muscles, besides taking some Part of the Bone away with it; He was soon after sent to sick Quarters, and dressed up. During the Time of the Cure, he told me, there were several Splinters of Bone taken away, and after that the Wound healed; but the violent Laceration the Ball had made rendered him incapable of serving his Majesty King *George*

as a Soldier: They discharged him from the Army, and soon after his Discharge he came to *England*; he had not been long here before his Arm began to pain him greatly, and in a short Time it broke out as bad as ever; he then determined to come into the Hospital for a Cure, and was accordingly admitted, but was advised at his first Entrance to part with his Arm; but he would, by no Means, consent to any such Thing: However, as he would not consent to part with it, a Caustic was proposed to be laid on, which was immediately done. Upon the Caustic's being removed the Eschar was divided, and dressed the next Day with a warm Medicine; as soon as the Eschar was separated and thrown off, the next Business was to destroy the luxuriant Flesh, that arose from the Parts adjacent, with the Caustic; and, after continuing that Method some Time, several Splinters of Bone were taken away, and the Man was much easier than he had been for some Months before. After taking away the

last Splinters of Bone a good Deal of Blood issued from the Wound, which was soon stopped with dry Lint and a Roller: After this the Wound looked a great Deal better; sound Granulations sprang up apace, the spongy Flesh was destroyed by the Caustic, and the Wound healed; but his Fingers will always remain useless.



C A S E IX.

A Young Girl, aged about Twenty-four, in the Month of *October* 1746, came to me, and complained of a Swelling she had on the right Side of her Face; she said it was so troublesome to her, Night and Day, that it was impossible for her to get any Rest. I set her down in a Chair, and desired her to open her Mouth, that I might look into it, to see if any Thing was to be perceived inwardly; but nothing in particular appeared, excepting that

that the Cheek seemed a good Deal loaded, as well internally as externally, but not fuller in one Place than another : There was no Fluctuation of Matter to be felt. I asked her what Sort of Pain it was ; she replied that it was a shooting darting Pain, that it struck upwards into her Head. The Girl had a Fever upon her. I took away ten Ounces of Blood from her Arm, and ordered her a Fever Powder every six Hours, and to drink plentifully of Barley-water, and to continue so to do for a Day or two ; and to keep her Face wrapped up warm with Flannel, and then to come to me again if she found herself no better. In about two or three Days she came to me again ; I asked her how she found herself ; she told me she was not so hot as she had been, and that her Fever was a good Deal abated, but that her Face was swelled more than it was when I first looked upon it, and that her Pain in that Part was as severe as ever. I looked into her Mouth again, but could find no Matter ; I then concluded.

cluded within myself that the Mischief must be in the Antrum Highmorianum. I told the Girl what I thought, that the only probable Means to give her Relief was to have one of her Teeth taken out of the upper Jaw, which she very readily consented to. Upon one of the Dentes Molares being extracted, there issued out immediately a great Deal of fœtid Matter, which, if confined there much longer, must have fouled the Jaw: She washed her Mouth with a little Cordial made warm. I ordered her a Gargle, to continue for a Day or two, when she returned to me again, and gave me Thanks, and told me that her Pain was intirely gone, and the Swelling abated.

C A S E X.

A Woman, who was taken into the Hospital in the Month of *November* 1746, had two Excrecences, one on each Side the Labia

bia Pudenda, very narrow at their Base, but grew larger towards the Extremities; their Resemblance was not unlike to a Mushroom. A Ligature was tied round the Root of each, made with waxed Thread, and drawn as close as possibly together, without taking them intirely off. The Ligatures were continued for the Space of a Week, when both the Excrescences dropped off. The Ulcer that remained was dressed with the Cerat Turneri, and in a short Time was perfectly cured.



C A S E X I.

ONE *Jones*, a *Welchman*, in the Month of *November* 1746, had the Misfortune to tumble down Stairs, by which Accident he broke both Bones of the right Leg, about three Inches above the Ankle: He was immediately brought to the Hospital, put to Bed, and his Leg placed in a Fracture-box. A great Deal
3 of

of Blood was extravasated, and a violent Tension appeared very evident from the Knee to the Foot. An astringent Mixture was then ordered, with Rags dipped into it two or three Times double, and so covered the whole Limb, and afterwards to be done up with the eighteen-tail Bandage, with soft Bolsters of Tow and two long Splints of each Side, well guarded, to keep the Limb in a proper Position; which, I think, is the best and most commodious for all Fractures. The Limb being laid in the best Manner it possibly could be, he was bled very largely, and a purging Mixture was ordered to be given him immediately, which caused two or three Stools; but, the next Day, when the Leg was opened (here I cannot help taking Notice of the great Use of long Splints and the eighteen-tail Bandage, even in simple Fractures, by having Opportunity of viewing the Fracture daily) the Tension appeared much greater than it was overnight; he had been very uneasy all Night; the Tension indeed was so great
3 that

that there were apparent Signs of a Mortification coming on; but to prevent, and instantly remove the Danger that threatened us, the Limb was scarified in several Places, and was permitted to bleed plentifully; it was afterwards dressed up with a warm Medicine, and the whole Limb was covered with a discutient Poultrice, guarded with the eighteen-tail Bandage. Upon coming the next Day, the Man told me he had had a very good Night, and complained of no Uneasiness but from the Soreness of the Scarifications: His Limb was dressed up in the same Manner it was the Day before. The next Day it appeared considerably less; the Swelling continued greatly to abate, and in a few Days was reduced to the Size of the other; the Poultices and Fomentations were left off, the Wounds were dressed with the common Dressings, the Bones united, and the Man grew perfectly well. In this Case it plainly appears that the Scarification saved his Limb as well as his Life.

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C A S E



C A S E XII.

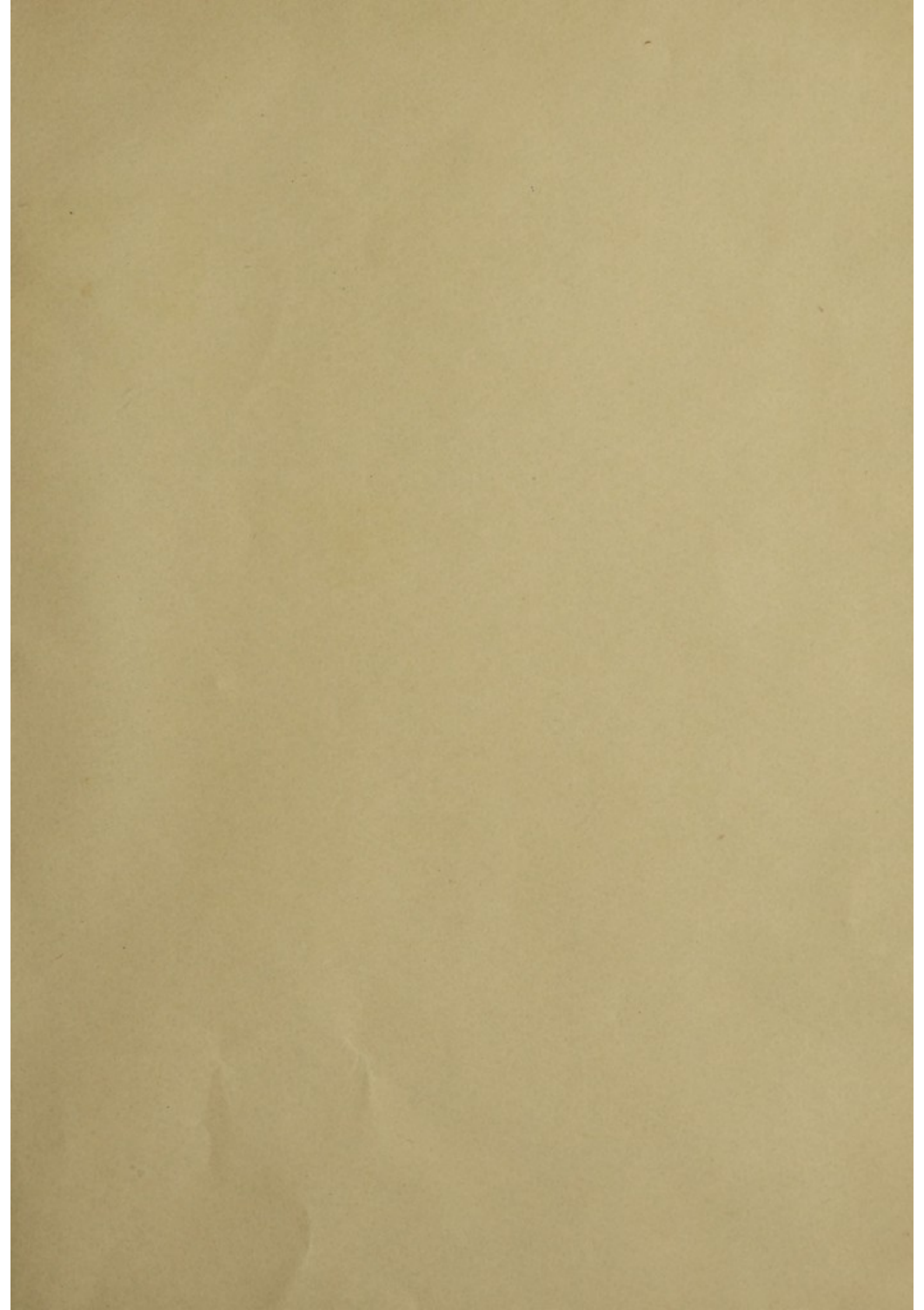
IN the Month of *February* 1749, a Watch-maker, that now lives by *St. Bartholomew's* Hospital, and had been under *Dr. Hilmore's* Care for his Eyes, was by him ordered to be bled in the Foot; immediately upon his return home he sent for a Barber that lives in *Smithfield*, who, I suppose, was not very conversant in that Operation: In a Day or two afterwards his Foot began to swell, and grew very painful; an Apothecary that attended him ordered him some Applications, but to no Purpose; he then sent for me. Upon Examination I found a large Quantity of Matter contained, but the Skin had broke the Night before, which gave Discharge to some Part of it, upon which he said he was something easier; but the Aperture was so very small, that the greater Part remained behind. I passed my

Probe,

Probe, and found that the Sinus was continued all along the Top of the Foot; I considered with myself what was best to be done, and resolved to make three separate Openings, about half an Inch from each other, which gave Discharge to a great Quantity of Matter, and what remained I pressed out with my Fingers, which Discharge proved very beneficial to my Patient: I dressed up the Wounds with soft Dressings, and ordered a discutient Poultice to cover the Whole. The next Day he very chearfully declared how much easier he was then than the preceding Day, for Sleep had been a Stranger to him some Nights before that Opening. I removed the Poultice with the other Dressings, wiped it very clean, and fomented it well; there still lodged some Matter, which I pressed out with my Fingers, then dressed him up with a warm Medicine, with a Poultice to cover the Whole, as before, and continued doing so for three or four Days, when the Sloughs began to throw off, and, in four
or

or five Days more, intirely separated. I then left off the Poultice, and dressed up the Wounds with dry Lint ; and here I cannot help recommending to the young Practitioner always to keep the Edges of a Wound clean, which, by so doing, will generally heal as soon again.— I touched the Wounds now and then with the Lunar Caustic (which, I think, by far has the Preference of all others) dressed the Wounds with the common Dressings, and, by the Help of Bandage and Compresses of Plaister betwixt each Opening, united the Whole, and made a perfect Cure. Here I must observe, that, where Sinusses run very wide, the making proper Openings at distant Spaces, and making Use of Compresses of Plaister, often prevents taking off a great Deal of the Membranes.

F I N I S.



or five days more, until separated from the
 part of the Prostate, and then up to the
 neck of the Uterus, and then I cannot be
 attending to the wound, and I must keep
 here the Edge of a Wound close, which by
 a little more of the same kind of
 a touchstone, I think, will not only
 secure the Cordic (which, I think, is part of the
 Particular of it) but also the Wound
 will be a good deal secured, and the
 of the Cordic, and the Wound of the
 and the Wound of the Uterus, all
 a good deal secured. Now I will return
 what happens in the case of a
 for Opening in distant Spores, and making
 a good deal of Practice, and a
 taking of a good Deal of the Prostate.

FINIS

