

The nature and causes of impotence in men, and barrenness in women, explained / [G. Archibald Douglas].

Contributors

Douglas, G. Archibald

Publication/Creation

London : J. Brett, 1758.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/awvfms8b>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

GUILDHALL LIBRARY
LONDON

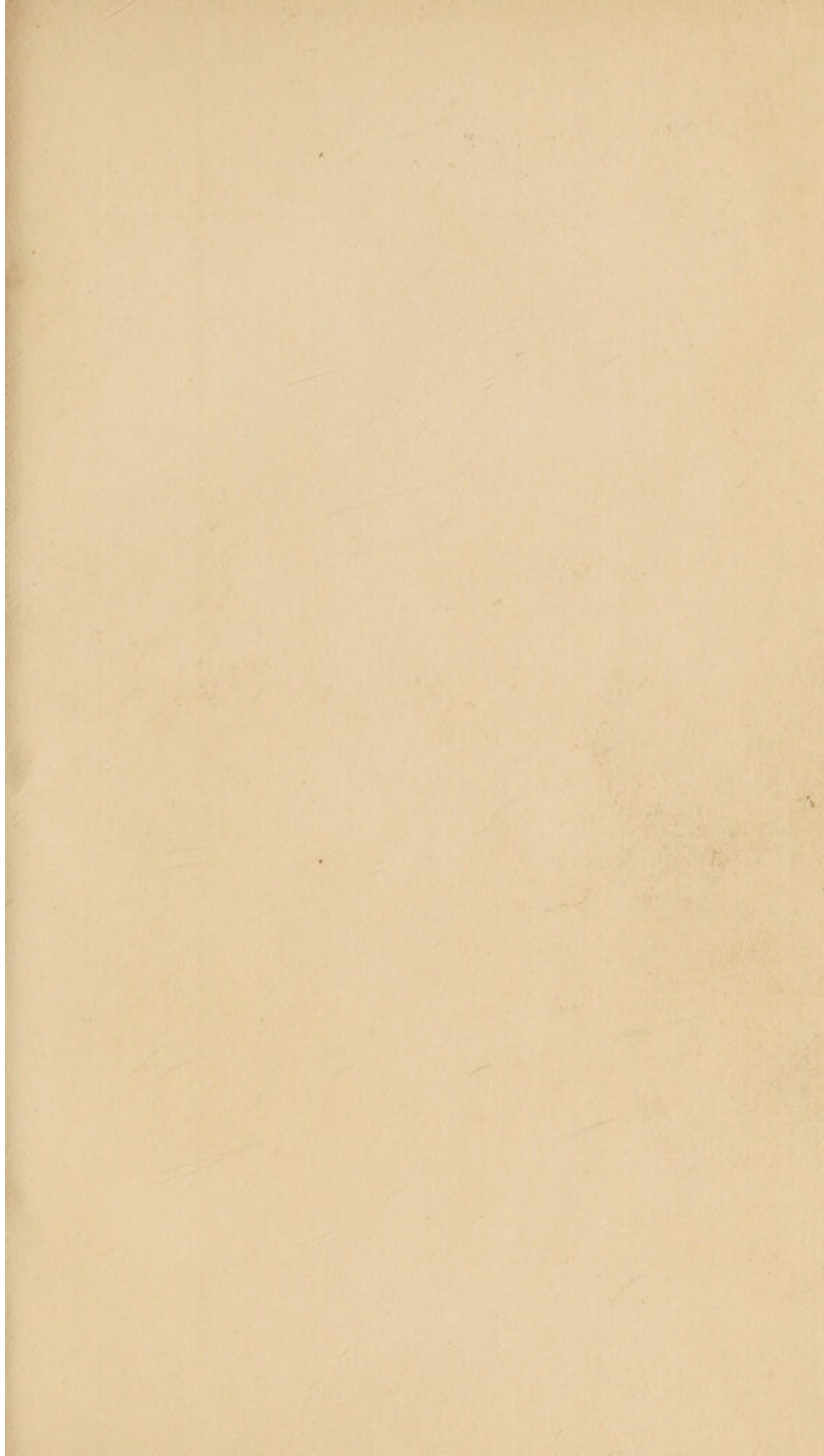
20800/8

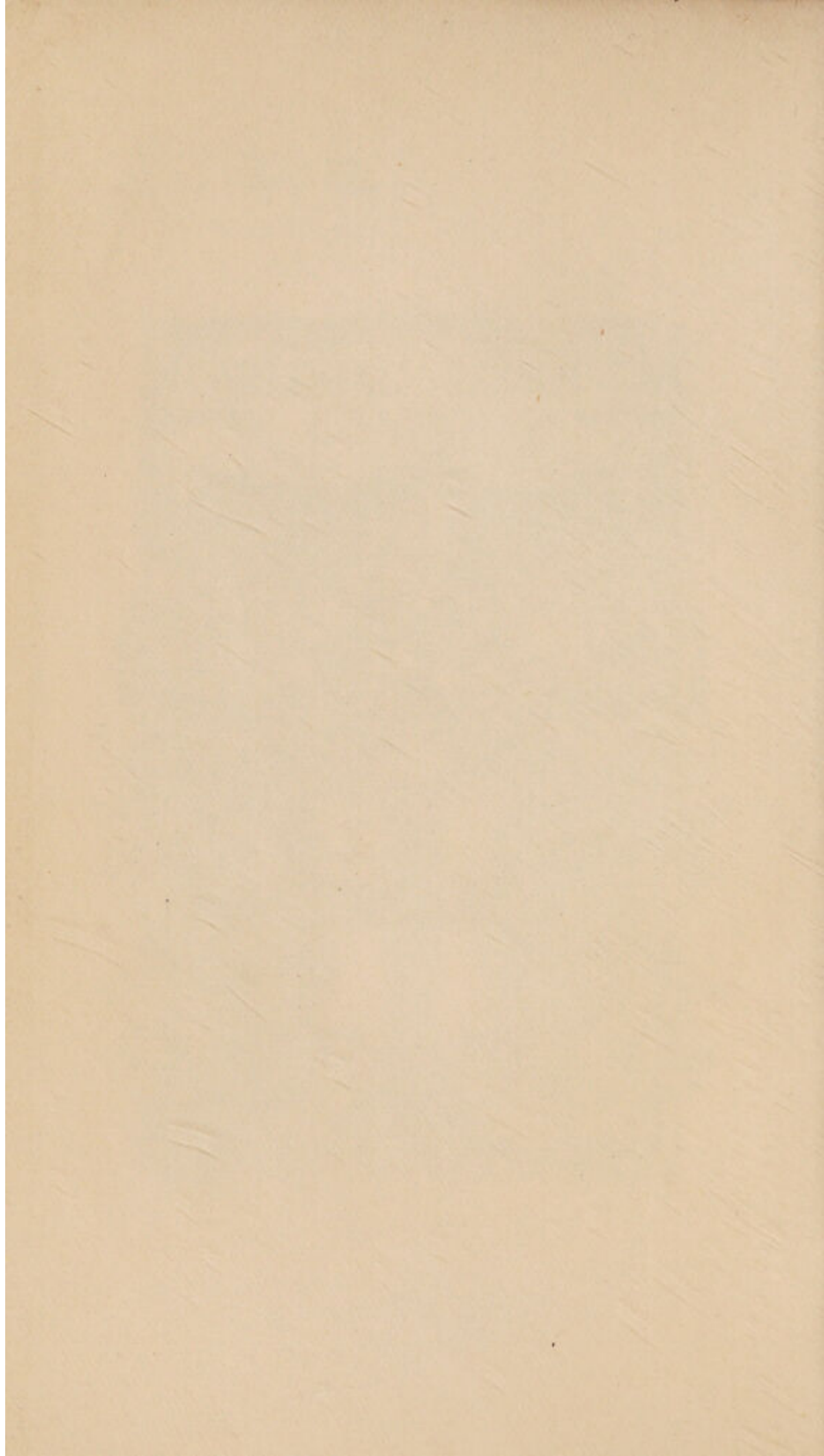
D. 3. 2.


WEL



WITHDRAWN
LONDON







Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30503504>

[Removed from Tr. 44.3.]

Guildhall Library note

3

THE
NATURE AND CAUSES
OF
IMPOTENCE IN MEN,
AND
BARRENNESS IN WOMEN,
EXPLAINED;

WITH THE
METHODS by which it may be known, in any CASE,
on whose PART the IMPERFECTION lies;

AND
INSTRUCTIONS for the PREVENTION and REMEDY.

ALSO
The CONSEQUENCES of a Commerce with EUNUCHS; and of
SELF-ABUSE: Illustrated with a REMARKABLE CASE of a Widow
in the WEST-INDIES:

AND
COMPLETE DIRECTIONS for a Lady's managing herself in the nicest Article
of her Health; with innocent and effectual Medicines for all the Complaints
incident to that Sex.

By G. ARCHIBALD DOUGLAS,
DOCTOR OF PHYSICK.

The THIRD EDITION.

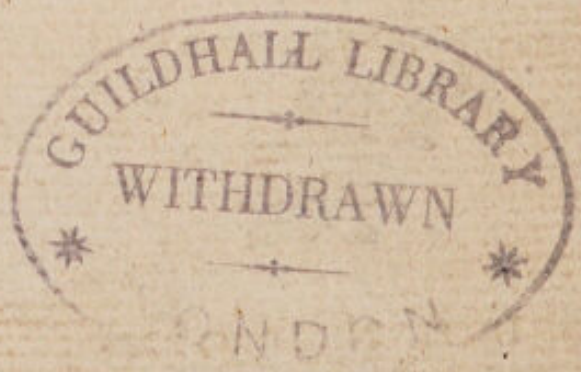


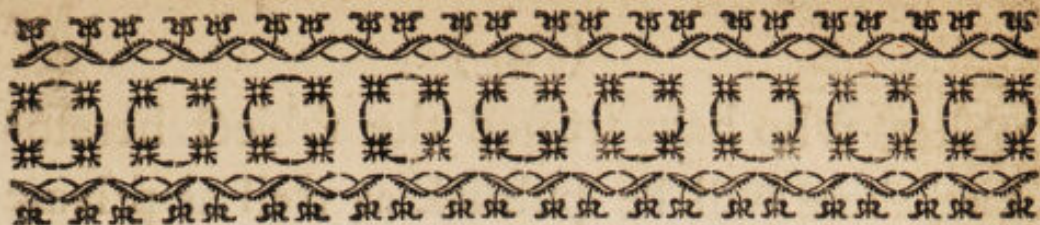
L O N D O N:
Printed for J. BRETT, opposite St. Clement's Church in the Strand.
M. DCC. LVIII.

[Price One Shilling and Sixpence.]

THE
MUSEUM OF
ANTHROPOLOGY
AND
ETHNOLOGY
NEW YORK

95400



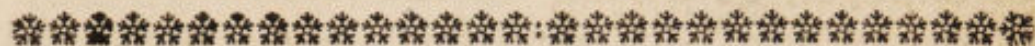


T H E

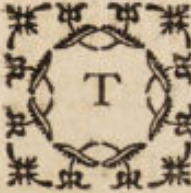
NATURE and CAUSES



IMPOTENCE and BARENNESS.



I N T R O D U C T I O N .

 H E publick are requested to receive this TREATISE, not as the fruit of a licentious fancy, or an effect of vain curiosity ; but as a serious enquiry into a most important article in human society ; which the author purposes to conduct with a decent reserve ; and in which his intent is only use.

'Tis propos'd to treat of BARRENNESS, an imperfection in the female frame not only disgusting to the person, but disadvantageous to the state ; and of IMPOTENCE, which with the same publick inconvenience entails always disgrace upon the husband. If any thing has been overlooked in this enquiry by the great

writers who have treated the subject heretofore, there will be publick as well as private benefit in this attempt, to explain it farther: at least it will be useful to lay before the persons concerned a plainer state of the case than they have any where at present. This is the purpose of the present work, and perhaps there will be found in it something more. Rules will be established by which it may be always known in families whether the want of children be owing to the husband or the wife; and the directions given for strengthening the organs and removing the complaints; by management and medicines: what are the occasions of weakness and sterility will be shewn; how they may be prevented; and what may be done to remove them.

IN order to this it will be necessary first to speak of the parts themselves; and to explain their structure; not particularly; for that would be offensive to modesty, and useless: but in such general terms as without disgusting the ear will inform the understanding: next we shall shew what nature meant in their construction, and in what manner she designed their use: that women may not be misled by idle stories, as children by pictures on a wall, but may know what is, and what is not in human nature: how far the con-

jugal duties should extend; and what the law calls IMPOTENCE.

THIS the author purposes: and this with his best attention he will endeavour to execute. If he shall be able to promote the peace of families and the good of the state, by making publick those instructions he has some years given successfully in private practice, his utmost hope will be answered.

By the method here laid down, every one may be acquainted with the nature of any particular case: the husband will be enabled to judge of the wife, the wife of the husband, as well as both of themselves: and the cause of the disappointment being known, they will have recourse not to reproaches but to remedies. These are also laid down at large; the prescriber having reserved no secret: and if they succeed as happily under the hands of others as they have in the cases wherein he has had opportunities of trying them, it will be found that these complaints are not always so difficult of cure as has been imagined: that a simple herb will sometimes give that relief which is vainly expected from a court of justice; and the natural and honest desires of the wife may be answered without lawful prostitution.

C H A P. I.

Of Human Generation.

NOTHING is so obscure as the account given even by the best writers, of animal generation: so much, however, as is needful to be known in order to understand the nature of barrenness in one sex, and of impotency in the other, may be explained to all capacities, without farther trespassing against the laws of modesty.

IN the man are lodged the principles of life, or rudiments of future children; and in the woman are disposed the proper places for their reception, and the means of their first nourishment.

THESE must both be in a state of perfection else no child can be begotten; therefore a defect in either may be a latent cause of barrenness. But there are others more obvious.

NATURE has lodged deep in the body of the woman those parts which are to receive the rudiment of the child from the man; and a peculiar organ is contrived therefore for conveying it thither. If weakness or any other imperfection prevent this part from penetrating to the destined place, or from preserving

what it is to discharge there, till it arrive thither, this is a plain and obvious cause of the want of children ; and is what we call impotency.

IF there be in the woman any obstruction in the passage to the womb ; or if there be a deficiency of any of the necessary parts for the reception of the rudiment of a child, these are the two most plain and certain causes of barrenness: the first is most obvious ; but the latter is at least as certain.

BESIDE these causes which are too likely to be lasting and incurable, the parts may be distempered in either sex ; and from a want of warmth and strength in them it may be impossible to have children. These are as certain causes of barrenness for the time as the others ; but they are only temporary, and may be removed by medicine.

THERE are diseases which render men unable to beget children, and others which make women incapable of conceiving ; which if neglected will cause lasting sterility : but which may be cured ; and children will follow.

THE course and method of generation is this.

IN the woman there are placed near the womb a number of eggs; and there is a tube, or pipe through which they may one by one pass into the womb itself. In the man there is liquor which is to impregnate these eggs, and give them life and the principle of growth.

THIS is a thick white fluid, full of little living creatures too small to be seen by the naked eye. Every one of these is the rudiment of a child; which being received into the egg of the woman, there grows. This liquor is lodged within the body of the man in small bladders; and from these there is a passage on each side into the male part near its root.

IN the same place there are also two glands which separate from the blood a thinner and less white liquor. This is discharged at all times in small quantities into the passage of the male part, and keeps it moist; but when that organ prepares for generation, these glands are compressed or squeezed by its swelling, and there is a larger quantity of that liquor forced from them. This comes out of the part together with the

thick white impregnating liquor; and makes its passage the easier into the female.

THUS there is reserved at all times in the man a liquor capable of impregnating the eggs; and in the woman a passage for those eggs into the womb, and a provision there to receive them,

THESE being brought together, children are begotten: and as this is a most important purpose of nature, she has annexed to it a peculiar sensual pleasure.

IN children and in persons grown old, male as well as female, these parts have little sensibility; but from the age of fourteen to fifty-four, the women, and from sixteen to sixty-eight, the men are influenced naturally by their feelings in them, when they are in company one with another, to desire copulation. Modesty restrains these desires, and the laws and customs of the country regulate the means of indulging them; but in a state of nature every man and woman who met within these limited ages would proceed to the begetting of children.

THIS rises from an emotion in the parts themselves. They are at other times cool

and quiet ; but nature has so constructed them that they are moved by the sight of a person of the other sex ; and are influenced by our desires ; or can perhaps create them.

To lodge the impregnating liquor in the place where it can influence the eggs, it is necessary that the male part from which it is conveyed should enter into the female : this it cannot do without a great degree of firmness in itself, nor without a suppleness and moisture in the passage through which it is to be admitted. On approaching the female this part swells, at the same time passage is moistened by a discharge of liquor from its own glands, and is prepared to receive it not only without pain, but with pleasure.

Thus the constitution influences the two sexes when they are mutually in health, and the parts in a state of maturity and perfection ; and the process of generation is then perfectly and easily performed.

THE reception of the male part creates a powerful sensation in the female, which extends not only to the passage itself, but to the womb, and to those tubes which are to form the communication between that and the places where the eggs are lodg'd.

THESE tubes at other times hang, with their open ends downwards, loose in the body; so that it is impossible for an egg to come into them: but when all the parts are thus put in motion these tubes become firm, they raise up their open ends, and apply them close to those places in which the eggs are deposited.

IN this state of the internal parts, the male organ being received into the body its end is close at the mouth of the womb: this opens at the same time; and it discharges directly into the cavity of the womb itself the liquor prepared by nature for impregnating the eggs.

THE office of the male is thus accomplished; and the being able to perform this is the proof a man is not impotent.

THE rudiments of the future offspring being now conveyed in their proper fluid to the womb, the course of generation is thus continued. The animalcules in this liquor are dispersed into all the parts of the cavity; and some of them make their way up the tubes. These being now applied by their open ends to the places where the eggs are lodged, one of the animalcules gets into an egg, and from that time it begins to swell. All this while the open end of the tube continues applied to the part; and as each egg is held

its place only by a weak stalk, when it swells: This stalk breaks off, and the egg falling into the opening of the tube is conveyed thro' its cavity into the womb; the other end opening there. When the egg is in the womb the whole work of generation is finished: the rest is only nourishment and growth.

As soon as the impregnated egg is got into the tube its end looses itself from the place where it had fixed, and no more can be received. Millions of the animalcules are lost for one that succeeds; but this is the common course of nature, who provides for such accidents by an abundant quantity. The production of a million of them is as easy as of one; and they suffer nothing, because they perish before they have any great sensations. 'Tis but of late these animalcules have been discovered; and since that time the fact has been again doubted: but it is certain. The liquor is not easily obtained from the human species; but in the sperm of a male frog dissected alive for that purpose, the animalcules are very conspicuous; and in many others.

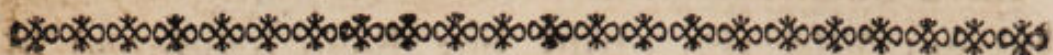
ALL anatomists know, the course of the egg into the womb is as here described; and there is no comprehending what can influence it to fall thither but this course by means

of a living animalcule. We know the passage of the egg is thro' the tube ; because there have been instances of its stopping by the way ; and the child has been produced in the tube instead of the womb, to the destruction of its parent. In more natural cases the egg makes its way thro' the tube, and falls into the womb ; where the embryo is nourished to a certain period of growth and strength : and when it has arrived at this, is brought forth into the world ; to attain maturity, and in the same manner propagate its species.

THIS account of the method of human generation, and the parts in the two sexes, by means of which it is performed, will explain to every person concerned, the nature of those deficiencies which occasion the want of children ; and in all common cases will set aside those animosities and mutual reproaches which the wife and husband are ready to cast upon one another. Each will know whether there be any obvious cause of the defect ; and on whose part it lies : and we shall direct in what manner they may seek the remedy.

ANY imperfection in the several parts we have mentioned may cause barrenness in the

one sex, or impotence in the other ; but the principal are those which follow.



C H A P. II.

Of the Causes of Impotence in Man.

THE part which the man has in the production of his species is comprised in two articles. 1st, The producing within his body a proper impregnating liquor; and, 2d, the discharging it into the womb of the female. In consequence of this, the imperfection may lie in two circumstances : the one remote and difficult to be proved; the other plain and obvious. He may either want the proper liquor; or the means of conveying to the necessary place.

WITH regard to a defect of the liquor there is a possibility for the wife to judge whether he have or have it not; though this is not so easy as some pretend: and even the jury of matrons may determine it, for the satisfaction of a court, in case of trial: but there is more required than the having such liquor, for the begetting of children; even supposing the organs themselves also to be in perfect good condition: it must be in the proper

and healthful state, or it cannot perform the office of generation.

THE ladies will join with me that the oaths made in case of rapes, wherein the law requires absolute testimony of the emission of this liquor, are very rash; for they relate to a point the woman cannot always know with certainty: and there are gentlemen also who will remember, (tho' they will not tell,) that they have known the most accustomed of the other sex deceived in that particular. But all does not turn even upon this. If the husband has not strength in the part for the necessary conveyance, that is absolute impotence, and the law will declare it such, tho' medicine may cure him afterwards: if it appears on more certain testimony than that of feeling, that he is destitute of the natural fluid, this is also an absolute state of impotency; and the law will equally allow it: but there are cases more desperate than these, tho' they cannot be perceived by either of those senses; and to a woman who considers her duty to heaven, and the state, they are much more deplorable. These, against which she has redress, may be removed; and modesty should teach her to advise her husband to apply to physicians, before she appeals to law: but in the other cases, which arise from

a distempered state of that liquor, the laws can give her no redress, though the want of children be more certain and absolute.

WHILE a man has this liquor in its proper state, an accident may give him for a moment the power of conveying it to the destined place; and this may take effect: the sight of copulation, or the very representation of that act, may have this consequence: and we have instances of its being successful. One of the first men in this kingdom owed his birth to the amorous encounter of two deer in his park, as his father was walking with his duchess: the earth was the bed, and an oak-tree the canopy. We owe also a virtuoso, who promises to inherit all his father's virtues, to the congress of two amorous persons of which the Antiquarian society have given the representation in four views. The Chinese know the efficacy of pictures; though they are very indifferent designers: and our painters would produce a like effect, if they did not disgust the passion they intended to raise, by exceeding those bounds which modesty demands even in the most licentious moments.

THUS accident may remove for a time that weakness, which medicine may cure entirely, in the part itself: and children may be begot-

ten under very unpromising circumstances, while the liquor is perfect. But this may be incapable of producing its effect, because vitiated or lifeless: and in that case, no child can be begotten; tho' courts and juries, and even the lady herself, would all acquit the husband of impotence.

THIS is one of those cases in which the cause being remote, the defect is usually laid upon the woman; while it is really in the man. We had an instance of it not long since, in which the unsuspecting wife submitted; and the husband gloried in a bastard by another woman. The lady would have had cause of triumph, if her virtue had permitted her to change the object: but the husband's was a vain boast; the coachman was the father.

IT has been shewn that the essential part in generation belongs to the man: and that this liquor is the great requisite. It contains the animalcule which is to become a man or woman, and serves as a proper residence for it, and is the means of conveying it to the egg. Two things are therefore requisite, that these animalcules be produced, and that this liquor be fit for their reception, and support.

EXTREAM debauchery burns up the very parts from which these animalcules should be formed: and in that case, though the organ have its due strength, and the liquor be in plenty, there is no possibility of children; for the first rudiments are not there. A husband in this situation would be declared potent by the law, for that examines no farther than by the senses: and the wife, if she consult only her amorous desires, may be well satisfied with him: but in regard to the real purpose of having children, she might as well abuse herself with those implements which they say are sold for that purpose; or with that living implement an eunuch.

In other cases where these animalcules are produced, the liquor which should support them destroys them. This liquor in persons who are healthy is white, but it is as liable to be diseased as the other humours of the body. In the jaundice it becomes yellow; and in melancholy cases brown: the venereal disease taints it with its acrimony; and cancerous habits affect it with their poison. In the two first of these cases, the animalcules are faint and languid; in the two latter, they are destroyed,

PEOPLE in the jaundice, or of melancholy habits, should not attempt to propagate children ; for they will be weak and imperfect : and in the two other cases they will attempt in vain. There are stages of the pox which are not infectious ; which yet render generation impossible, though they do not deprive men of the seeming power : and a latent cancerous humour in the blood is often the cause of the same mischief, long before it appears. Consumptive fathers in this manner, beget consumptive children ; and it is thus the Evil, and perhaps the Leprosy, are entailed upon succeeding generations.

THE fact is known ; but none has been able to give an account of it : nor can it be explained otherwise, than upon this system. But thus it is evident to reason. The production of the infant, depends upon a rudiment of a child in this liquor of the father. When he is healthy, that rudiment is also healthy, and it will grow to a robust man : but the diseases of the human body can affect this liquor as much as its other juices. Some of them infect the animalcules ; and others kill them : in the last of these cases generation is impossible, in the former the child is sickly.

WE see, the two great requisites on the side of the man are a perfect liquor for impregnation, and a part fit for conveying it: but there are still two other incidents as necessary, and as essential. These are a power of retention, that this liquor may not be discharged till a proper time; and a right direction in the parts through which it is thrown out, that it may take its proper course. The want of either of these may be on the man's part an imperfection, which will prevent the begetting of children.

IT is necessary that the male part be received into the female before the impregnating liquor is discharged, otherwise no child can be expected: for the womb is the part into which this liquor must come, in order to be conveyed to the eggs: and it can never get thither if it be wasted at the entrance, or in the passage.

THERE are people so unhappy, that the instant they come near the female this happens: they attribute it to the strength of their desires; but it is really owing to the weakness of their constitution. This is a kind of impotency very nearly allied to that which prevents the part itself from attaining its due condition: and they both arise from the same

cause, an early abuse of themselves ; a school-boy's practice, which is but one remove from bestiality. The law which makes that capital, by some strange oversight, allots no punishment for this: though its indecency is little less than the other, and its effects upon society are worse.

IN order to perfect generation, the male part must not only be received into the female, but remain there some considerable time before the liquor is discharged into the womb. A great deal is to be done in the female, and this is the means by which it must be performed. The mouth of the womb must open ; the tubes must swell ; and their loose ends must be raised, and applied close to the part wherein the eggs are lodged : all this is requisite to the effect ; and this is brought about gradually by the contact of the parts. When the womb and its tubes are in this state, the liquor being discharged into its cavity, is received up into those tubes, and the animalcule reaches an egg which it impregnates ; thus all is conducted rightly : but if this liquor be emitted as soon as the organ of the male has reached its proper place ; these changes being not yet produced in the female, it is of no consequence, and the whole act is

an idle piece of sensuality, without any possibility of that effect being produced which nature purposed, and which the laws of heaven and man expect.

THE ladies are great enemies to these short encounters; and they have reason: no man is properly qualified for the office of a husband, who cannot prolong the act to its natural period.

THIS is the true state of the female body requisite to being impregnated; and this shews the falshood and folly of those idle stories of women being got with child by this liquor discharged in a bath, and swimming in the water where they afterwards came naked.

WE see also the folly of that ancient opinion, that women might be with child without any commerce with man. This arose from an imagination that the egg contained the perfect child; in which case, indeed, a very little matter might set it to growing: but we see here the different state of nature; and therefore know it to be impossible. The embryo is in the man: therefore a woman cannot be impregnated but by the means of man: and such a state of the parts in the woman is needful, that even this liquor cannot

take effect, without those changes which nature has connected with the proper means of lodging it there.



C H A P. III.

Of false Conception.

A False conception may be formed by the abuse of a woman's self. They should know this and tremble: fear would keep them from this shameful prostitution, if they be dead to modesty.

IN order to the descent of an egg to the womb, the raising of the tube is necessary which goes from the womb to the place where the eggs are deposited. This raising of the tube is caused by a motion in the passage to the womb; and this may be produced in some degree by those shameful implements before named. The loose end of the tube being thus raised up and applied to the eggs, and the whole body of the tube, together with the womb itself being put in motion, it is possible that an egg may be dislodged from its place, and drove into the tube; and thence it may make its way into the womb. It is impossible that it should there produce a child, be-

cause there is none in it ; but it is possible that it may grow to a great bigness, and bring on all the appearances of pregnancy ; occasioning great trouble till it is discharged.

'Tis just to say this may happen from such an abuse of a woman's self ; for it has happened very lately.

A WIDOW in one of our sugar islands, who saw that most women there ruined themselves by second marriages, chose to abuse herself with a fruit of that country, called a Plantain ; not unlike the largest of our cucumbers. She was astonished to find herself as she thought pregnant ; but when she expected to be quick no motion was felt. After eight months she was delivered of a shapeless lump of flesh ; a false conception. This is a fact which has just happened ; and it comes too well authenticated to admit of doubt.

THESE false conceptions are uncommon in persons who have not had commerce with men, because the effect of those abominable and unnatural practices is less in degree than that in the commerce with men ; but in general those false conceptions to which married women are subject, arise from the same cause, tho' by means of a different instrument.

WE have observed that the male part may have strength, when the impregnating liquor is not in a condition to do its office : as when there is no animalcule in it. In this case the husband acts but the part of such an implement of a somewhat superior order. The part is received, the motion is natural, the parts in the body of the wife all perform their office, and an egg is loosed from its place, and drops into the tube, and is thence conveyed into the womb.

THERE has been no animalcule in the liquor, and consequently there can be no child ; but the egg grows and becomes a false conception. I have known this happen many times following one another in the same family. The lady has been supposed unnaturally formed ; while in reality the fault has lain in the husband only. This generally happens when men have accustomed themselves long to spirituous liquors ; or when they have some taint of the venereal disease, which though it does not disclose itself on them, nor infect the wife, yet has power to destroy the animalcules in this liquor.

THERE is a third cause of false conceptions, in which that which supplies the place

of the husband is of a middle nature between a man and a mechanical implement : this is the women's abuse of themselves with eunuchs. In these people it is impossible there should be any power of getting a child, because the very parts are cut away in which the impregnating liquor should be formed : but their organ for its discharge can yet attain its strength : it serves somewhat more naturally in the place of those implements ; and some liquor may come from it, though not of the right kind.

IT has been observed, that there are certain glands at the root of this part, which produce a liquor that is pressed out of them by its swelling and is discharged with the impregnating matter. These glands remain in eunuchs, and they still perform their office. They prepare the same liquor, and the pressing of them will bring it out : therefore these persons are capable of performing all the office of men, except that of begetting children : and they even have a liquor to discharge, tho' it be not of the right kind. This has recommended eunuchs highly among the bestial part of their countrywomen ; and, with other unnatural vices, they have taught it to some of ours. But there is

this consequence, which most who have indulged themselves in that shameful prostitution have found to their misery, that although eunuchs cannot beget children, they can occasion false conceptions. It is for this reason the Italian women are more subject to them than others; and the people about an Italian theatre most of all.

THE reason is plain: these persons can bring on the motion in the female, which occasions the orifice of the tube to rise to the place where the eggs are lodged: and if any one of these by accident be loose it will fall in, and be conveyed to the womb, where it will grow, tho' it cannot have the principle of life: and being incapable of producing a child, will occasion a false conception.

THUS unnatural practices bring on unnatural consequences; and women who follow this course are exposed to shame, and often to death.

THERE is evidence of this truth from facts; and there is no cause to doubt of it in reason: for even in the perfect commerce with man, the operation of the parts is merely mechanical. In the case of rapes, women are got with child, tho' the in-

clination have nothing to do in it ; the mind being affected on those occasions only by terror and disgust. The operation of the male upon the female organs, produces this effect naturally, and without the consent or desire of the woman, merely by the motion which is excited in the parts, and its consequences according to their construction : and in the same manner these animate or inanimate implements may produce as much of the effect as relates to them. They certainly do occasion the tube to rise and apply its open end to the eggs : and whether one of them falls in or not, is owing not to any thing in the mere performance of operation, but to their being or not being in a condition to drop off.

NATURALLY they are not so ; because the course of nature is, that an animalcule should be lodged in them to produce the effect : but accidentally they may, and do sometimes fall off into the tube, and passing thence into the womb, without an animalcule, they occasion this false conception.

THERE is always some danger in these cases : and often a great deal. When they happen to young women, the substance seldom lies within them more than eight, nine,

or ten months : but when women who are more advanced in life, are guilty of these beastly follies, the false conception usually remains many years ; and often brings on miserable diseases and a lingering death.



C H A P. IV.

Of an internal Defect in the Male Part.

IT has been shewn, that besides the obvious cause of impotency in men, that is the want of strength in the part, there may be as total an incapacity of begetting children, from a defect of retention ; and that even when both strength and retention concur, still the man may be as incapable of begetting children as an eunuch, from the bad condition of the impregnating liquor in his body : but to these there is yet to be added a fourth cause on the man's side, which is a wrong direction of this liquor in its passage when it is discharged, from the vesicles wherein it is originally lodged, into the male organ.

To explain this, we must remind the reader, that the liquor is carried through

two tubes from these vesicles to the male organ; and that at the ends of these there is a kind of button or head which secures their opening, and directs the passage of the liquor that is discharged thro' them. This head gives them an opening outward, and thus the liquor is discharged forward: so that it is naturally and easily sent out of the part: but in some persons the opening is inward, and consequently the liquor is discharged upwards, towards the bladder.

IN this case, altho' a man be in perfect health, and have all the parts strong and well-proportioned, it is impossible he should beget children. Tho' the liquor be perfect and full of animalcules, and the part make its proper entrance; the liquor which is discharged into it takes a wrong course, and no children can be begotten.

THIS is a singular and unsuspected case; and added to the rest, it shews how often the defect may be in the husband, while it is charged upon the wife. We have instances of this particular conformation of the parts in dissection; and men have been cured, when it has been discovered while they were living, by an operation. *Petit* has given a singular instance of it.

C H A P. V.

The Causes of Barrenness in Women.

WE see there are five causes of impotence in man, only one of which is generally considered; or perhaps understood to exist. He may be incapable of begetting a child from weakness of the part; or want of retention, which is also a weakness, tho' in a lesser degree: or by the destruction of the animalcules in the liquor; by the disorders of that liquor from diseases; or from its wrong direction in the discharge: these last are remote and secret causes, but they are more effectual than the others. The two first must be prevented, for the effect is very difficult to be removed: the careful eye, and sharp rod of the schoolmaster, are the great remedies; for the mischief is done so young as while persons are under his direction. Temperance is the remedy of the third: the fourth depending upon other diseases, will cease when they are removed; and the last is the business of the surgeon.

THESE being unseen, occasion the blame to be laid upon the wife; and that want of children is imputed to barrenness, which

is really the effect of impotency: but there are causes in the woman as well as the man; and barrenness is as real a complaint as the other. These causes we come now to examine; and having said in what cases the wife is accused falsely, we shall shew wherein she may be truly the occasion.

THE causes of barrenness are of two kinds, as those of impotency: some plain and obvious, and the others remote and obscure.

THE first requisite in the woman's part toward the conception of children, and indeed, the only one which can be the object of our examination is, that the passage to the womb be open; of due bigness, and unobstructed: nature has in general so proportioned it, that a defect in this kind, is rather understood as a compliment than a censure.

IT is pretended that virgins have a membrane across this passage, at some depth: they call it hymen; and esteem it the mark of virginity. Anatomists find no such membrane in the natural state of the parts, but it may happen in unnatural conformations: it is the same with regard to the outer opening of the passage, which is sometimes so contracted by the growing together of the edges, that copulation is impossible.

IN either of these cases the surgeon is to be called in; and his operation is easily performed: the obstruction is thus removed, and the lady rendered capable of having children. These therefore, although they be real obstacles, yet are of trifling consideration, because they are easily cured. What may be the internal and more obscure defects, we shall readily see, by reviewing the account of generation.

THERE must be eggs, or there can be no reception for the animalcule which is to form the child; and these must be capable of being discharged from their original situation, or they cannot be brought into the womb. Perhaps there has never been an instance in which eggs were wholly wanting; but there are women in whom they cannot be got out of their place; and this is an absolute cause of barrenness. It is a very uncommon case, but it does sometimes happen, and perhaps it is the true, and only true cause of barrenness, properly so called. In this case, the animalcule is carried into the egg: but as the egg is not capable of falling into the tube, the embryo dies, and there is no conception. These are the only causes of absolute sterility: the first is easy of cure, and

the other very rarely happens. We see therefore how unjustly the defect is generally laid upon the women.

IF the passage of the tube between the eggs and the womb be obstructed, or unnaturally formed, the egg when it has been impregnated, will lodge and take its growth there, and a child will be produced; though its mother cannot be delivered of it. This is a miserable accident, but it is not barrenness.

IT has been said, a coldness of constitution may occasion sterility: but this is not true: women who take least delight in the commerce with the other sex, conceive more readily than others. The sex are subject to disorders which may prevent conception, and there is one of these which is often very obstinate; but it is not incurable.

To these occasions of barrenness, we may also add the long disuse, or the too frequent practice of venery. Either extrem is equally detrimental; but each may be remedied by a proper conduct.

WE see by these observations, which are the result of experience, and founded on

facts, that, contrary to the common opinion, the causes of barrenness are fewer in women, than those of impotency in man; and that in women they are for the most part temporary and curable; in men lasting, and too often beyond the reach of remedies.



C H A P. VI.

Of the Prevention and Cure of Impotence in Men.

AS the cure of this misfortune is difficult, there is the more reason to be careful in the prevention: our duty to our Creator, and to the state wherein we live, both require it of us; and mercy to our children should be as strong a motive. They often lay the foundation of impotency before they know the consequences of their actions; and 'tis the parent, the guardian, and the master, who are really guilty in overlooking what they might easily prevent. Early youth is the time of life when the occasion of this shameful and miserable imperfection is ofteneft given: and the practice by which modesty is so early destroyed, and the parts deplorably weakened, is so common, we are not to wonder, that between its influence and

that of succeeding debauchery and diseases, one third part of mankind are reduced to this condition.

THE state between boy and man, is the time when this practice is begun, and many continue it to their death. That early period of life, should be the most reserved of all; for, it is then the parts are strengthening themselves, and the foundation is laid of a vigorous, or an enfeebled constitution.

WHEN advanced to manhood, another conduct is required. Nature intended the propagation of the species: and that is the time for it. Marriage is the natural and proper state of young people; and they only are happy, who can at this right period of life properly enter into it. The intercourse of the two sexes is intended at that time, and all other methods of obtaining it are attended with misery and remorse.

MEN who utterly abstain from women at this period become heavy, melancholy, and morose: and women if they are of healthy constitutions, too often loose them. Their colour and their strength forsake them; and nature accuses them every moment of forgetting for what they were born.

THE first care therefore in the prevention of impotency in men, is the avoiding that beastly practice of boys: the next is, marrying in time. There is no doubt but a person in health who observes these two rules, will become a father of children: and to preserve himself in that state, let him observe, that moderation is the great rule of nature in all things. Let him abstain religiously from other women; and nature, much better than all rules, will direct his conduct in his proper bed: he will thus continue in the healthy condition wherein he set out in life, and may be through the whole common course of it, a father of children.

WHATSOEVER gives strength to the body in general, answers also this purpose in particular: and two things contribute most to strength of body, temperance and exercise. Observing these rules, he will himself be happy; and his wife happy; and, he will see himself, a father of a strong and healthy family.

THUS far the rules of prevention go; and they are easy and certain: when the mischief of impotence is come on, we are to look farther for a cure. It is much more difficult: but the advantage, if it can be procured, is worth all the labour.

IN the case of weakness in the part, and want of retention, the same methods are to be used; for these are only two degrees of one disorder: the one affecting the internal parts of the organ, and the other the whole: a proper regimen and conduct of life will do more than medicines in this; and it is vain to expect good without it. Rise early in a morning, use moderate but frequent exercise, drink red wine and Bristol water at meals; and every third day go into the cold bath. Abstain totally from venery, and if possible, from the thoughts of it, for three months; and with this regimen, use the following medicines.

OBSERVE that the abstaining from venery is a most essential article: the task is not difficult; for the best enjoyments of it in such cases, is more a torment than a pleasure.

EVERY morning at eleven o'clock, and every afternoon at seven, take thirty-five drops of elixir of vitriol in a glass of Bristol water for the first two months; and for the last, take instead of this, at those hours, a glass of *tar water*.

UNLESS this course be observed strictly, no good is to be expected; but with regula-

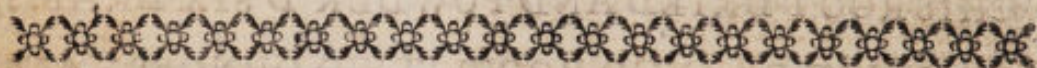
riety and temperance, it has very lately performed an absolute cure upon a person in a deplorable state.

WHEN strength is thus restored, if there want warmth and desire, avoid as poison, cantharides, and such provocatives: and it is proper to know Ginseng, though sold, for this purpose, for its weight in gold, is good for nothing. The following is the genuine receipt of the famous Turkish electuary, the secret of which, a certain prince purchased in 1690, at a price amounting to between seven and eight thousand pounds. TAKE CHOICE CINNAMON, THREE DRAMS; LEAVES OF THE TRUE MARUM POWDERED, TWO SCRUPLES; VANILLA EIGHT GRAINS; ORCHIS ROOT DRIED AND POWDER'D SIX DRAMS; CANDIED ERYNGO ROOT, TWO OUNCES: AND AS MUCH CONSERVE OF THE TOPS OF MUGWORT AS WILL BRING IT INTO FORM.

THE dose of this is the bigness of a nutmeg: it must be taken every other, or every third evening, one hour before going to bed: the effect is certain, and it strengthens the constitution at the same time that it promotes and provides for the venereal desire.

THESE are the great means of preventing and of remedying imbecillity; the other cases of impotency which we have named direct their own cure. If the animalcules have been destroyed by the use of spirituous liquors, the abstaining from these is the only cure: but this must be done gradually; not at once. The quantity must be reduced before they are absolutely left off; and the strongest wines allowed in their place, till the person can by custom bear to reduce this a little lower.

IF diseases spoil the liquor of impregnation, those diseases must be the object of the patient's care: when they are cured, this liquor will return to its natural condition.



C H A P. VII.

Of the Prevention and Remedies for Barrenness in Women.

THE occasions of barrenness are so far different from those of impotence, that the methods of prevention, and of relief under it, must be altogether varied. The immediate cause, which is an obstruc-

tion to the intercourse with man, is very uncommon; and prevention is impossible from the nature of the case; for it is an original error of nature in the construction of the parts: but the remedy is in the hand of the surgeon; and in any of the cases, it is easy and free from all danger.

GIRLS are not so shameless as boys; nor is self-abuse common among them: but when they have fallen early into so detestable a practice, their constitution will be hurt by it; and as much care will be requisite in their parents, where there is a suspicion of any thing of this sort, as on the other occasion. In general, the disorders of this sex arise from a contrary cause; the absolute repose of the parts at a season when nature intended them for propagation. The best prevention is timely marriage; and of all others this is the surest way to avoid barrenness. Half the diseases of women are owing to the want of this natural intercourse of the two sexes; and we have seen that their disorders are the general cause of their barrenness: therefore this timely care, not only prevents a sickly life, but obviates that cause of sterility.

By timely matrimony, it is not meant that children should be put together in this state: the very contrary has been at first laid down as an essential article: for both the constitutions of the male and female would be ruined by too early a use of venery. Nature points out the time by plain and obvious characters; and after the persons are arrived at this period, there should be about two years allowed for confirming and strengthening the parts. It is most essential for the future health to abstain from venery till that time; and from that pitiful imitation of it which children shamefully teach one another. In this period the parts, having before attained their perfect confirmation, strengthen themselves, and are capable of performing the necessary office through life. At or about the end of that period, persons should marry: and it is by that alone they will establish themselves in happiness and health, avoid the temptations to debauchery and prostitution, and fulfil the end of their creation; happy in themselves, obedient to the decrees of nature, and useful to their country.

THERE is no point in which the laws require so careful a regard as this. The go-

vernment is concerned: for the care of posterity is one of its great objects; and few imagine how much the strength and vigour of a succeeding generation depend upon the age and health of the parents. When marriage is deferred till late in life, the men from the accustomed freedoms of their sex fall into debaucheries; in consequence of which, they entail diseases on the wife; or they are incapable of begetting healthy children. Impotence and disorders destroy the harmony of the nuptial state; and the offspring, if there be any, are feeble: we see it in the children of those in the highest ranks; and it is owing to this cause, more than any other. Interested views defer their marriage till they are past its best purposes and highest enjoyments; and consequently they become the fathers of a feeble race, if of any; while the poor, to whom all matches are equal, come together when nature prompts them, and beget children hearty to till that land, the fruit of which the descendants of the others are scarce able to enjoy.

THE delaying marriage has these bad consequences in the men; and in the women it has worse: they fall into disorders which probably entail barrenness upon them: or

into abuses which render them incapable of the true use of marriage: or if they have the uncommon good fortune to escape these, they probably are lost in the time of delivery. Nature, which intended a certain period of life for the intercourse of the two sexes, prepared the body also, at that time, for the delivery of children; by rendering the parts tender and capable of stretching. At the best period, and under the easiest circumstances, this is a scene of the greatest pain and terror: but when women have passed the natural and proper time, if they conceive at all, the danger and the pain of delivery are proportionably encreased: the parts are grown hard, and the birth of the child either destroys the frame, or entails such misery, as nothing can cure. As necessary as it is, therefore, for persons to marry at a proper time of life, so prudent will it be for those who have omitted it longer, to let it alone intirely. Nature does not sollicit them, the call of their country is over: for there is no probability of their bringing a numerous progeny: and the danger of their lives is too great for any views of interest to ballance.

THE proper period of marriage is not limited to so small a time as to be any great

restraint in this case : from two years after puberty, it may very justly be said to continue ten or twelve years : and even for some time after that, women may marry without danger ; but certainly the high season of life is from seventeen to four and twenty : and the lady who marries within that period, has a thousand times the chance for happiness that she has, who stays longer. The more has been said on this subject, because the happiness of families, the health of children, and the good of the state, are all highly interested in it : and the author will account himself happy if parents pay some regard to truths which are so obvious and so important.

THE great prevention of barrenness will thus be found by timely marriage. The age is not limited in men: if they have lived soberly, they will be able to beget children as long as women will be able to bear them, tho' there be the difference of fifteen or sixteen years in advance in their age.

THE second cause of barrenness, which is a deficiency of eggs in a woman, can no more be prevented or remedied, that it can be seen. It is a natural imperfection in the structure of the body ; and is, perhaps, the only one for which a divorce could reasonably be

granted to a husband. In this case, nature and reason join to demand it: the great source of affection and conjugal love is wanting, so there can be no hardship to either party in the separation: and the good of the state, so far as individuals can affect that good, require it. The husband who cannot give an heir to his family-estate and honours; or encrease the number of the people with that wife, may with another: and it is fit, that for his own happiness, and the publick good, the opportunity should be given him.

BUT at the same time that we plead for this, the utmost caution is to be recommended in judging of the case. We have said the defect is a hundred times in the husband for once in the wife; and this should be first carefully examined, under all the cautions we have given: then where it is certain that barrenness in the lady is the cause, let it be enquired, whether it arise from this or from any other occasion: for any other may be remedied.

WHETHER there be any obstruction in the parts, is a point the husband can determine for himself: none is so dull or ignorant, as not to know when this natural and

interesting commerce is properly performed : and if no obstruction be in the case, nor imperfection in himself, the care of the lady's health is a material article. If there be any disorder in this respect, every method should be taken to cure it, before any opinion of absolute and natural barrenness be formed : nor should that censure be ever passed, till the health is perfectly restored.

EVERY one is sensible that conception has a great connection with the natural evacuations of that sex ; and experience shews that where they are absolutely wanting, there can be no expectation of children. When they are too small in quantity, there is also less probability of conceiving : and when abundant, to a great excess, the person rarely becomes with child ; or if she does, is subject to miscarriages. Therefore this matter is to be regulated before a woman can be said to be barren.

WHERE these evacuations are entirely wanting at the appointed time of life, the woman cannot be in health ; and her first care must be to promote them. There are many receipts of forcing medicines handed about in families ; and the mischief that is done by them is beyond belief : they are

coarse, violent, and ill prepared. Let the lady who would preserve her health, or the parent for the daughter, avoid these: and allowing time for a gradual assistance, proceed in the following manner.

BEGIN with a gentle vomit of *Ipecacuanba wine*; and as occasion shall require, let this and bleeding in the foot be repeated once in a month, or once in two months.

ONCE in five days, constantly, take as many drops of *elixir proprietatis* as will give two or three stools; and every night going to bed, take a wine glass of the following infusion. Cut small half an ounce of fresh root of the true black hellebore; two ounces of the root of broad-leav'd libanotis; and one ounce of master-wort root; a handful of dried penny-royal, and half a handful of dried ground-pine; three drams of the seeds of acmella, and a dram of saffron: pour upon the whole a quart of boiling water, and let it stand close covered twelve hours: then pour off the clear liquor, and keep it in a cool place.

LET this be taken constantly; and use free and frequent exercise. The purpose will be gradually answered, and the effect brought on without violence to the constitution.

A GREAT deal of care must be taken to get the ingredients good, or no dependance can be placed upon this medicine. There are two of them not common in our shops, the broad libanotis and the acmella; the latter indeed is scarce known: the libanotis is the root called by the Germans, *white gentian*; the acmella is the seed of an Indian corn marygold, one of the finest medicines in the world, tho' little used in England. Till these two excellent drugs are more brought into use by our physicians, it will be proper to apply for them to the Germ. apothecaries, of whom there are several London. The care of procuring the right medicine will be very well answered in the certainty of the effect.

IF this fail, and steel be necessary, which it is not in one case in ten thousand, the safest way is to go to some of the places where the mineral waters of that kind are drank: for the giving crude steel, tho' so very common, is a hazardous practice: and the preparations of it in tinctures, salts, and the like, tho' less mischievous in skilful hands, are not medicines to be trusted to the patients themselves. If after all these trials the case be so obstinate that

the obstruction continues, the patient must not venture farther on her own advice, but send for a physician; and telling what has been done, ask farther help.

IN cases where the periods are regular, but the quantity is too small, let this medicine be used, and with it the Turkish electuary, but each only in half the dose that has been before directed: and let the person drink pennyroyal tea, and use exercise.

THESE methods will bring that essential article in the health of women to a proper course; and there will be an end of barrenness if that were the occasion.

ON the other hand, if the discharge be excessive, let the following remedies be used.

AT the approach of the time, avoid high-seasoned foods and strong liquors: keep within doors, and be still: shun exercise of any kind; and avoid as carefully all violent passions. The mind as well as the body are to be kept in a state of rest, and gentle remedies will then take effect; but if the temper be disturbed, all the effect of medicines will be vain. It is all one what passion give the disturbance: what is required is, rest from all: anger or fear, joy or grief; any thing excessive is equally dangerous.

TAKE half an ounce of dried red roses ; pour upon them a quart of boiling water ; and drop in thirty drops of spirit of vitriol, add two or three lumps of double-refined sugar, and stir all about. Let it stand till cold ; then strain off the liquor : it will be clear and pleasant : a glass of it should be drank every three hours, beginning the second day of the discharge, and continuing to the end of the time.

WHEN the mind and body are kept quiet, and all heating food and strong liquors avoided, this gentle remedy will often prove sufficient.

IF this do not answer the purpose, take powder of jesuit's-bark, one ounce ; of dragon's-blood, a dram ; berries of agnus castus powdered, two drams : mix these into an electuary with a sufficient quantity of conserve of red roses, and syrup of quinces : take the bigness of a nutmeg of this every eight hours, with a glass of the same liquor.

THERE are very few cases in which these methods will not succeed, so as to perform a perfect cure : perhaps none, unless it be the fault of the patient in not attending to the conduct before directed.

THERE is yet one disease to which the ladies are subject, which is more an enemy to conception than any excess or defect of the preceding kind; and which is much more difficult to cure. This is the *Fluor Albus*: a complaint which attends many women thro' a great part of their lives; and is the most disagreeable, and most offensive to the natural delicacy of that sex, of all others. This is a very common cause of barrenness; and itself arises often from a disuse of the parts. Therefore, with the course of medicines we shall direct: the husband must also perform his office for the cure.

PATIENCE under a fit set of remedies is also necessary; for this is not a complaint from which relief is to be expected instantly: and if it could be so obtained, it would not last; but there would be a certainty of a relapse. Tho' this disorder prevent conception for the time it is upon the person, it has no effect farther. It does not in a lasting manner impair the parts: but when the lady is recovered, she is as likely to have children, as any other who never had the disorder.

THE cure must be begun by a vomit, and for this purpose, the powder of the ipeca-

cuanha, not the tincture must be taken. The common method is to take the tincture, because it is pleasant; and in ordinary cases, that is as effectual: for where only vomiting is required, it very well does the business. But this root was famous as an astringent, before it was known as a vomit; and in this case, we want both its qualities. The powder is found to answer best, and twenty-five grains is a proper dose.

THIS is to be taken for the first thing; and worked off in the usual manner: and during the course, it should be repeated once in ten days.

WHEN the vomit has done working, take a glass of red Port wine heated with a piece of cinnamon, and a small lump of fine sugar: drop into it forty drops of tincture of the bark, and drink it going to bed.

LET the following medicine be prepared the same day, that the course may be regularly continued, by taking it the next.

SLICE a quarter of a pound of fresh comfrey root, and half an ounce of the roots of common daisies; pour upon these a quart and half a pint of boiling water, and let them stand together twelve hours; then pour off

the liquor, and let it settle clear. Rub together in a mortar the yolk of a new laid egg, and one ounce of balsam of capivi, mix the liquor by degrees with these, and add two ounces of strong cinnamon water: this must be kept in a cool place, and a wine glass of it drank every morning and evening.

THIS medicine with vomits, as already directed, will generally cure the disorder in about five weeks; if it be not of a very long standing.

WHEN it has been a great while upon the person, and the face looks pale and swelled, and there is an unwillingness to move the limbs, the disease is much more desperate, and it will require more care and longer time to make a cure.

IN this case, let the course be begun by a vomit, and the same medicine prepared for taking afterwards. Make up also the following electuary. Take powder of mastich two drams; of dragon's blood one dram; of Peruvian bark an ounce; and of common alum a quarter of an ounce: mix all these into an electuary with conserve of roses, and syrup of quinces; and take the bigness of a nutmeg every night, with a glass of lime

water after it. Let the other medicine be taken twice a day. Repeat the vomit at times; and with a syringe, use the following liquor. Bruise two ounces of tormentil root; one ounce of oak bark; and four ounces of rind of pomegranates with half an ounce of the stones of raisins: boil these in two quarts of water to one quart, and add two drams of alum. Let this stand to be clear, and then use it just warm, throwing it up with a syringe twice a day.

THIS is a disagreeable method, but it cannot be avoided: for when the complaint is of long standing, it will not be cured any way else. It very seldom resists these methods; and unless it be very bad indeed, the last will not be needful.

WHEN the disease is cured, the parts return to their original strength, and nothing prevents the person being with child, if the husband does his duty. But when the cure is perfected, a great deal of care must be taken to watch for the first appearance of a return, which is very apt to happen. If this be neglected, the case will soon become as bad as ever; but otherwise there is little fear, for the use of the same remedies in smaller quantities for a little time will stop this mischief.

THUS may the husband and the wife, who are so unhappy as to want children, judge mutually of themselves, and of each other, and find without much difficulty or danger of error, in whom the defect lies. Domestick quarrels will be avoided, for their source is in misunderstanding of the case; and by the easy and safe medicines here directed, they may remove those disorders, which are the occasion of their disappointment, without entrusting to any person so delicate a secret. They owe it to heaven, and to the state to attempt a remedy; and to each other, they owe so much regard, as not to divulge the cause, while there is any hope of remedy. If by means of this work the subject is so explained, as to prevent mistakes between the parties for the future, and point out to them by what means, when they know their infirmities, they may rationally attempt a remedy, the author will have accomplished his design.

T H E E N D.



