

Lithotomus castratus; or Mr. Cheselden's Treatise on the high operation for the stone, thoroughly examin'd and plainly found to be Lithotomia Douglassiana, under another title: in a letter to Dr. John Arbuthnot. With an appendix, wherein both authors are fairly compar'd / [By R.H. i.e. Robert Houstoun].

Contributors

Houstoun, Robert, -1734.
Cheselden, William, 1688-1752.
Arbuthnot, John, 1667-1735.

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Lithotomus Castratus;

OR,

Mr. CHESELDEN'S

TREATISE on the
HIGH OPERATION for the STONE,

Thoroughly Examin'd, and plainly found to be

LITHOTOMIA DOUGLASSIANA, &c.

Under another Title:

In a LETTER to

Dr. JOHN ARBUTHNOT.

WITH AN

APPENDIX.

Wherein both Authors are fairly compar'd.

To which is added,

A Word of Advice to Surgeons.

*Neque ab aliis scripta vindicanda nobis: quia max-
imæ iniquitatis opus est auferre scriptori gloriam,
quæ ad illum pertineat. Jamb. in Nicom. Arith.
Sunt mea quidem sententia plusquam plagiariorum
pena digni, qui hujusmodi furtis delectantur &
sibi nomen ac laborem alienum attribuunt.*

Carol. Steph.

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. PAYNE near Stationer's-Hall. 1723.

(Pr. 1 s. 6 d.)

THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

BY JOHN VAUGHAN

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME THE SECOND

LONDON

PRINTED BY R. CLAY AND COMPANY

PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY

IN STRAND

1857



TO THE
Most Ingenious, Learned and Accomplish'd
PHYSICIAN,
Dr. JOHN ARBUTHNOT,
The Ornament of his Profession,
The Glory of his Country,
The Promoter and Patron of the most Liberal
ARTS and SCIENCES;
The Following
EPISTOLARY ESSAY
Is most humbly Inscrib'd, by
His most Oblig'd, and
most devoted Servant,

R. H. M. D.

Si faveant hisce meis ROBERTUS GRAIUS,
& JOHANNES ARBUTHNOTUS Scoti illi Æscu-
calapij atque HECQUETUS ille Parisiensis opifer,
aliorum Judicia non Morabor: BELLINIUS enim
ad Deos abiit.

TO THE

Members of the Legislature

PHYSICIAN

JOHN ARBUTHNOT

Of the Profession

of the Country

and the

of the

The

STORY OF

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R. A. M. D.

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A
L E T T E R
T O
Dr. JOHN ARBUTHNOT.

S I R,

EVERY work that is new
and just, and tends to
the advancement of any
one branch of Surgery, is an
unspeakable honour and glory
to its author: it deserves the
especial approbation of his bro-
ther artists, and richly merits
the thanks of those, that are

relieved from Pain by its operations ; and since every mortal frame is subject to accidents, it justly demands the praise and encouragement of all mankind.

Now certainly, if the advancement of any one branch of the art deserves thus much, it will be a nice province, and of no little difficulty, to proportion justly, the degree of praise due to the new method of cutting for the stone, by which we are taught, and pointed out to a much more easie and safe way of relieving the afflicted sons of men, from one of the most painful, one of the most torturing and dreadful diseases that can ever affect a humane body.

As I was lately running over the advertisements, I found Mr. Chefelden had just published a treatise on the high operation for the stone, when the above consideration, join'd to my knowledge of that gentleman's character and great success in the practice of the art, on which his book was said to treat, rais'd my curiosity to a great height, and promising my self, that I should be surpriz'd with something new and uncommon, I sent for it out of hand, and waited with some impatience till it came.

I had no sooner perus'd a few pages in the body of the book, before I was indeed surpriz'd, but in a very different manner from

what I at first expected. Truly sir, where I had plac'd an imaginary pleasure, I must own I met with real pain, to find, that a person who had justly obtain'd so good a character as a practitioner, should deserve so very different a reputation, as an author; and that a professor of one of the most liberal arts, should turn it to the most illiberal use. *

I find, sir, and am sorry to find, that Mr. Cheselden's performance is extraordinary in nothing; but what is likely to prove as much to the disadvantage of his character, as I had thought it would redound to his fame.

* Nam cum scribere artem Instituunt, videntur dicere se excogitasse, quod alios docerent: cum vero scribunt, ostendunt nobis, quid alij Excogitarint. *Auctor ad Heren. lib. IV. c. 3. §. 4.*

fame. It is by no means a new work, no, under the specious appearance of being so, it is a direct essay to detract from a new one; it looks at best, like a poor and ill-design'd endeavour of one artful and crafty man, to pass for what he is not, and to hinder another ingenious person from passing for what he really is, the first and chief author, and discoverer, as well as practitioner, of this new method in England.

Mr. John Douglas, Surgeon, about four Months ago, oblig'd the world with a treatise on this subject, which he has form'd in the following method. He informs his Readers of the vari-

ous methods of cutting for the stone, and in speaking of each of them, he succinctly, but clearly, shows the inconveniencies of each method, the parts concern'd in the operation, names the instruments that are us'd, and relates the manner how each operation is to be perform'd; he then comes to his own new method, the principles of which, he says, were first laid down by the most sagacious of all Surgeons, Rossetus; he next places before our Eyes, the motives which encourag'd him to attempt this new way; enumerates the parts concern'd in this operation, describes the instruments necessary for it, tells us the number and office of assistants

stants, the scituation of the patient, and the manner how to perform it: he afterwards shows the method of cutting females, and then gives us the history of his successes; to this work he subjoins, as an appendix, what the said famous Rossetus has written in his book *De Partu Cæsareo*, on that head, and a copy of a curious latin Thesis sent him from Paris, the question of which, is thus stated, “An, ad extrahendum calculum, difsecanda ad pubem vefica?” This is the method us’d in Mr. Douglas’s Treatise, entitled, *Lithotomia Douglassiana*.

About four Months after the publication of this tract, there

appears another book, concerning the high operation for the stone : This book begins likewise with an account of the new method of cutting, in the following manner. The author describes the parts concern'd in the operation, the scituation of the patient, the office of the assistants, the several kinds of instruments, and the manner how to perform it, together with the history of his own cures in that way ; he afterwards translates Mr. Douglas's appendix from Rossetus, and the above mention'd thesis into English, and this, forsooth, is entitled, A Treatise on the High Operation for the Stone, by William Cheselden

Chefelden Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark. *

Thus this latter work is so entirely methodiz'd, transcrib'd, or translated, from the former, that there is not any thing wanting to show them both to be, in effect, one and the same book, but explaining and clearing up the sense of the title pages of each. You are therefore desired to understand, sir, that 'Lithotomia Douglassiana, or a new method of cutting for the stone, first practis'd by John Douglas, Surgeon,' signifies in plain English, according to the art of modern translation, 'A

C

Trea-

* Qui aliorum scripta furantes, pro suis prædicant sunt vituperandi.

‘ Treatise on the High Opera-
 ‘ tion for the stone, by William
 ‘ Cheselden, Surgeon to St.
 ‘ Thomas’s Hospital, South-
 ‘ wark, F. R. S. ’ * For the
 parts describ’d to be concern’d
 in the operation, are the same
 in each work ; the number and
 office of assistants agree in each,
 in each the scituation of the pa-
 tient is exactly alike ; and the
 two authors differ not at all in de-
 scribing the manner how to per-
 form that operation ; they differ
 in nothing but this one point,
 that Mr. Douglas discovers to
 us the reasons which mov’d him
 to attempt this new way, and
 Mr. Cheselden is pleas’d to con-
 ceal

* O sagacem industrii viri genium !

ceal them from us, for other reasons, no doubt, best known to himself.

Mr. Douglas lays down five strong motives, which encourag'd him to attempt this way, and attempting it with success three times, in the first four tryals which he made, he then communicated it to the publick, and among others, to this Mr. Cheselden, Surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital, (who, says the good-natur'd author)

‘ has always the good of man-
 ‘ kind more at heart, than any
 ‘ little view of his own.

Now, Mr. Cheselden mentions not the motives that induc'd him first to attempt this same way, because, belike, if he

had, he must necessarily have own'd the previous success of Mr. Douglas ; and the reasons alledg'd by him, to have been absolutely his first real motives, and that would have spoil'd the formal address in the front of his book, where, in the perfect form of a true dedicator, he's pleas'd to tell Dr. Mead, ' that
' his success in those operations,
' were owing to the encourage-
' ment that great Physician gave
' him, both by his presence, and
' favourable opinion of the un-
dertaking. ' In this part hither-
to, they only differ, in all the
rest they are so much the same.
that if Mr. Cheselden be not a
meer eccho of Mr. Douglas's
words, he's certainly a repeater

of his Sentiments, without any addition.

I shall therefore, fir, beg leave hereafter, to collate Mr. Chefelden with Mr Douglas,*and unless saying the very same thing over again, in other words, without any substantial, or material alteration, is rather to be call'd composing, than transcribing, Mr. Chefelden cannot be properly said to have done any more, than transcrib'd Mr. Douglas's method, and to have translated another man's work to his own use. He has in this latter tract, not so much as shew'd us one single foot-step of an amendment, or correction, that can be made in the former,

un-

* Mr. Douglas's

unless it be this, (and that I own may be a material one, in the present case) that Mr. Douglas, in the next edition of his book, ought in justice to the world, rather than to himself, to expunge the character which he has publish'd of Mr. Chefelden, viz. ' That he has always had ' the good of mankind more at ' heart, than any little private ' view of his own: ' For, if Mr. Douglas would still remain his friend, how could he justify it to be for the good of mankind, that Mr. Chefelden should draw in so many people to pay five shillings for his book, when they had both purchas'd and read all the contents thereof, before, in the Lithotomia Douglassiana, for

for half the money.* And seems it not rather to be done for some little private view of his own? for my part, I think, that if Mr. Douglas can defend him in this point, Mr. Chefelden has not offended, but if he cannot defend him, it will be an offence to mankind to name him again with so improper a character, in any future edition.

Here I must take leave to remark, that, by way of repaying; Mr. Douglas still more generously for the good character which he has given of him; Mr. Chefelden tells the reader in his Preface, That Mr. Douglas's method is nearly the same
with

* Nam quod emas, possis dicere jure tuum.

with Rossetus's, which he has translated, and then bids him look into the Lithotomia, after he has insinuated, that it will not be worth his while so to do, and by this means, artfully endeavours to keep the reader from discovering, that he transcrib'd his own method from the Lithotomia.

Pray does not Mr. Douglas tell us himself, that he derives his principles from his favourite author, Rossetus, even more fully than Mr. Cheselden tells us, with this difference only, that Mr. Douglas does it out of a spirit of justice, Mr. Cheselden with a seeming spirit of detraction?

But Mr. Chefelden carries still farther, this spirit of detraction, and while he thus, with a sly, unbecoming artifice, endeavours to cloak his own real thefts from Mr. John Douglas, he craftily mentions, how the theory had been commended to the Royal Society by Dr. James Douglas long before; and speaks well of the Physician, whom it is not his business to vie with, in order to lessen the Surgeon, whom, it seems, he was to eclipse and out-vie in fame.

The practice upon the theory is then represented rash, and what no man, but Mr. John Douglas, would venture his reputation upon; as if Mr. John Douglas had had none to lose,

and deserv'd to gain none. But as soon as Mr. Chefelden follow'd the same practice, it truly then first became praise-worthy. Mr. John Douglas his beginning the practice, is made to appear insignificant, because his brother the Physician, had commended the theory : But Mr. Chefelden's operations are of the first significance, because he learn'd from him, both the theory and practice.

It would have been no shame, after all, to the Surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital, to have spoken out the whole undisguis'd truth at once, and then his preface might have been shorter, more pithy, and much more to the purpose, and might have

have run in the following words.

‘ Mr. Douglas (he should
 ‘ have said) took the first prin-
 ‘ ciples of his new method from
 ‘ Rossetus, and I, from Mr.
 ‘ Douglas, with this difference,
 ‘ that Rossetus ingenuously owns,
 ‘ he never practis’d it upon li-
 ‘ ving bodies, and Mr. Douglas
 ‘ was the first person I ever knew,
 ‘ who did so, and that led me
 ‘ the way to the practice, as well
 ‘ as the theory. This Gentle-
 ‘ man having succeeded three
 ‘ times in the first four operati-
 ‘ ons, before I, or any of my
 ‘ brethren knew, or would be-
 ‘ lieve any thing of the matter,
 ‘ was firmly persuaded, that it

‘ would prove much more suc-
‘ cessful than the common me-
‘ thod: Therefore he thought
‘ he could not oblige the pub-
‘ lick more, than by communi-
‘ cating it to the Surgeons of
‘ the Hospitals, where they had
‘ such frequent oportunities of
‘ practising it.

‘ Accordingly, he acquainted
‘ them, that he would come and
‘ cut publickly in either, or both
‘ Hospitals, whenever they plea-
‘ sed. But instead of accepting
‘ this offer, as he expected, they
‘ all rejected it with scorn, a
‘ derogatory to the character of
‘ the Cutters, except my self
‘ who encourag’d him (as he
‘ pleas’d to own, in a manne
‘ much more to my reputation
‘ that

‘ than I can pretend to deserve)
‘ and have since follow’d his me-
‘ thod of practice with very good
‘ success. I am likewise as much
‘ indebted to him for being my
‘ predecessor in writing, as in
‘ acting: for I have here de-
‘ scrib’d the operation much
‘ after his manner, having su-
‘ peradded nothing new of my
‘ own, that could make this trea-
‘ tise more useful than his, un-
‘ less it consists in relating the
‘ history of my success with
‘ each of the nine patients, whom
‘ I have cut this way, and in
‘ translating his latin Appendix,
‘ and some other authors whom
‘ he quotes, for the benefit of
‘ less learned operators, whose
mis-

‘ misfortune it is, not to under-
 ‘ stand the originals.

‘ Mr. Douglas, I thank him,
 ‘ has been so very kind, as, in a
 ‘ manner to advertise this work
 ‘ of mine in his own ; where he
 ‘ says, that I cut two patients
 ‘ after this manner, on the third
 ‘ of May, 1722 ; and six more
 ‘ before the beginning of August
 ‘ following, all which operati-
 ‘ ons (says he, according to his
 ‘ usual good nature in bestowing
 ‘ applauses upon me) succeeded
 “ to the entire satisfaction of se-
 “ veral of the most eminent
 “ Physicians and Surgeons in
 “ town, and every one of the pa-
 “ tients recover’d. “ I shou’d,
 ‘ continues the same good-na-
 ‘ tur’d Mr. Douglas, “ been more
 “ particular

“ particular in the history of
 “ these cases, (which let the rea-
 ‘ der note by the bye, would have
 ‘ depriv’d Mr. Cheselden from
 ‘ the pretence of putting out any
 ‘ book on that subject,) “ did
 “ not Mr. Cheselden design soon
 “ to publish an account of them,
 “ to which I refer the inquisitive
 “ reader. ”

This would have been a mo-
 dest, a just and full preface to
 Mr. Cheselden’s work, * but as
 the matter now stands, while
 he would perswade us, that Mr.
 Douglas’s new method is an old
 one, what can he say, to prove
 his

* Vide ne facias Impudenter, qui tuo no-
 mine velis ex aliorum Laboribus Libare Laudem.

Auctor ad Herenn. lib. 4. c. 3, 4.

his own Book so much a novelty as he would have it taken for? Has it any other pretension to the title of a new performance, but that it is more newly publish'd, and came out about four months after Mr. Douglas publish'd his?

Mr. Paul is mention'd by the same author, in the same place, with as great applause as Mr. Chefelden, for having cut two in St. Thomas's Hospital, both of whom recover'd perfectly, tho' one of 'em was taken with the small Pox, eight Days after the operation.

Now, why has not Mr. Paul a just foundation, for following the noble example of Mr. Chefelden?

felden? He then may translate Rossetus again, and make it clearer to us in English, for Mr. Cheselden owns it obscure and uncouth in many passages, as he really well may, the English now wanting, in some parts, every jot as much a translation, as the Latin did before; and if so, it's only transcribing the method, by placing Rossetus first, then his own method of operation, in other words, together with the History of his experiments and successes, which I must remark by the way, increase every day, and would probably swell the bulk of such a performance, and so we may be furnish'd with another new treatise, and so on, in infinitum,

E till

till we had as many discoverers as there were practicers, and as many authors, as there were cutters. *

Methinks Men ought to be deterr'd from this, not only unlawful, but ridiculous way of practice, upon the consideration, that they rather injure themselves than others.

How handsome a figure does Mr. Cheselden make in Mr. Douglas's Book, and what a wretched appearance in his own?

In Mr. Douglas's, he appears to be an honourable person, 'that has no private view
'but makes the good of mankind

* Sed nunc ammoto quæramus seria ludo.

‘ kind his chief aim, his main
 ‘ prospect ; ’ In his own, he
 seems to be a Man, that, to
 make a mean and despicable
 profit to himself, would blemish
 the character of another at any
 rate, who had deserv’d well from
 the world.

In Mr. Douglas’s, he appears
 what he really is, an expert
 artist; in his own, he seems to
 be, not an expert artist, so much,
 as a man of art and craft, who,
 by endeavouring to be more
 than he is, makes himself really
 less. For while we reflect with
 indignation, that he falsely aims
 at being esteemed the author of
 another man’s treatise, we forget
 that he is, what he really is,
 his equal in practice ; and thus,

by pretending to arrogate the honour of being the head, he loses the title which he otherwise might have justly claim'd, of being a worthy coadjutor.

I don't say this, sir, so much to do Justice to the single person of Mr. John Douglas, (for I must own, even to you, that till this time, I had a strong prejudice against him) as I do it with regard to the justice that is due to all mankind; because I am fully sensible, that if these indirect practices were to be continu'd, it must infallibly discourage others from making any noble discoveries of the like nature.

Now, discoveries are of all things the most useful in the
healing

healing art, and what, above all, deserve our encouragement and esteem.

Perault, in his descriptions of the illustrious men of France, makes this very just and accurate observation: 'Secrets, says
' he, may be kept in Families,
' when they only tend to a simple curiosity, but when they
' are of use for the preservation
' of life, methinks they ought,
' as much as possible, to be put
' into the hands of all the world,
' even tho' it could not be done
' without suffering some prejudice.

Sydenham speaking of agues, makes likewise this remark, which is as just in diseases of every

every kind. ‘ If any man knows
 ‘ how to stop the carreeer of
 ‘ agues, either by a method, or
 ‘ specifick, he is certainly oblig’d
 ‘ to discover a thing so benefi-
 ‘ cial to mankind ; but if he re-
 ‘ fuse to do it, he is neither a
 ‘ good citizen, nor a prudent
 ‘ man ; for it does not become
 ‘ a good citizen to reserve to
 ‘ himself that which may be ad-
 ‘ vantageous to his fellow-crea-
 ‘ tures, neither is it the part of
 ‘ a prudent man, to deprive
 ‘ himself of that blessing which
 ‘ he may reasonably expect from
 ‘ heaven, if he makes it his bu-
 ‘ siness to promote the good of
 ‘ the publick.

‘ Truly,

‘ Truly, vertue and wisdom
 ‘ are more valu’d by good men,
 ‘ than either riches or honours.

‘ There is (says Dr. Oliver) a
 ‘ regard to be had to men afflict-
 ‘ ed with any diseases, and they
 ‘ should be treated with all the
 ‘ respect, tenderness, and civility
 ‘ in the world; there is a pity
 ‘ and concern required from us,
 ‘ for the miseries and misfor-
 ‘ tunes of men, and we ought
 ‘ to be very ready to assist them
 ‘ on all occasions, and to be then
 ‘ most glad, when we are most
 ‘ serviceable.

These are, I must own, in-
 genious reflections; but me-
 thinks, I may add on the other
 hand, that the publick ought
 to give such artists, all the pro-
 fit

fit and honour that are due to such discoveries, for fear they should be otherwise tempted, as too many have been, to conceal them : conscious to themselves of how much value some secrets have been while they remain'd secrets, and of how little value they have prov'd to their authors, the moment after they have been reveal'd.

As Mr. Douglas was perfectly well appriz'd of this way of the world, I cannot help remarking upon some beautiful circumstances in his behaviour on this occasion.

He seems, as it were, to have forc'd his assistance upon us against our wills, and if I may
use

use the expression, to have fav'd
is from our selves.

Even dead authors, whose
sentiments were of the greatest
weight, seem'd to have conspi-
red with the living practitioners,
who bore the highest renown in
the art of Surgery, to explode
and banish this operation from
the world, and effectually to de-
prive human nature of the nu-
merous benefits arising from it,
ill this young gentleman ven-
ur'd singly to combat for truth,
against general prejudice, and
contemning all calumnies, con-
quer'd, in the end, all opposi-
tion; forc'd it again into re-
quest, and from his own single
and private practice, brought it
to be publick and universal.

Notwithstanding what de Franco says, that though himself succeeded, no other Surgeon ought ever after to attempt it.

Notwithstanding after him the famous Hildan dissuades every honest and industrious Surgeon from so perillous an undertaking.

Notwithstanding Fienus asserts de Franco's way to be utterly impracticable, because wounds in the bladder are mortal, and can't be consolidated and therefore brands it with the name of a rash undertaking which he thought not worth his while to speak of more at large because every body had abandon'd and renounc'd the practice of it.

Notwithstanding Thevenin, in his treatise of operations declares, that de Franco's way is no more in use, because the incision being made in the fund and body of the bladder, causes great accidents.

Notwithstanding the learned Drelincourt had told us, that the Franconian operation died as soon as it was invented, because, when the fund of the bladder was perforated, the urine flow'd into the cavity of the belly, and caused death.

Notwithstanding all these authorities, which were enough to deter a genius that was not fully and unconquerably bent on great and extraordinary discoveries, from looking any fur-

ther. This curious and enterprising artist, was bravely resolv'd to carry so useful an enquiry to as great a height, as ever his own genius, study, information, or experiment, could possibly lead him.

Accordingly, in the numerous enquiries which he made, he found as great authorities among the dead writers, and likewise living witnesses of his own acquaintance, particularly Mr Amyand, his Majesty's Surgeon proving, that wounds in the bladder were not mortal, as Fienus has said above, nor that they were even very dangerous as Hildan, Drelincourt, and de Franco himself asserted; nay that they were not even so dangerous

gerous and liable to accidents, (tho Thevenin has been pleas'd to say so) viz. occasioning impotencies, incontinency of urine, &c. as the way of cutting in the common operation, but had been often cured with the greatest success, and without the least ill consequences, and as these later authorities were grounded upon experience, whereas the former were most of them imaginary, and caus'd by the very want of experience, he was justly animated by the latter, more than he was discourag'd by the former.

Again, he very rationally argues with himself, that most of the wounds in the bladder, so cur'd, as above-mention'd, were uncouth

uncouth and irregular wounds, and consequently the harder to cure, being made by improper instruments, as swords, bullets, and the horns of wild beasts, the random work of chance, and he justly concludes, a fortiori, that artificial wounds made in the most proper place, ‘ with proper instruments, and all necessary precautions, would succeed with much less trouble, and much more certainty.’

When he had thus boldly, but justly, reason’d with himself, he, with no less justice and caution, proceeds in his manner of acting, than he had done before in his method of thinking. As he would not rest contented with bare authorities, unsupported

supported by experience, to ground his opinion in speculation; so neither would he remain satisfy'd with both the authority and experience of other persons join'd together, as sufficient motives for him to undertake the practice, till he had confirm'd both by frequent experiments of his own, wisely and innocently try'd upon dead bodies.

After he had with a vast deal of trouble and pains, try'd experiment after experiment, upon numbers of dead bodies, to make himself dextrous and expert, in his then intended practice; after he had even had the courage to try upon two li-
ving

ving persons, he then came and presented them before a very publick Company, when one of the Cutters viewing the cicatrices of the wounds, was pleas'd immediately, without more ado, to assert, that they appear'd to him to have been made with causticks. This, must certainly have been a very great shock to modesty, provided that modesty had not been accompany'd with equal courage; but as one vertue supported the other, he got the better of this objection, which, he had no sooner done, but a fresh one was rais'd against him.

The next cry was, that tho' boys could be cur'd this way, yet men could receive no advantage
from

from his projected method; and this argument, it seems, was so dextrously manag'd against him, that it lost him a very good patient, and the gentleman his life.

Neither were objections only rais'd against him in discourse, and by carrying about flying reports from place to place, to his disadvantage, * but pamphlets upon pamphlets, are publish'd against him, to injure his character and wound his fame; to ridicule his abilities, to misrepresent him as no better than

G a

* A Pamphlet entitled, Animadversions on a late Treatise, entitled, Lithotomia Douglassiana; and another Pamphlet entitled,

The Second Edition of the Scotch Doctor, to which is added, a wonderful relation of de Franco's Ghost; both printed for J. Roberts in Warwick-Lane.

a meer Empirick, and a vain boaster, and to expose his pretensions as chimerical and impossible, grounded upon no more than an ipse dixit, to juggle men out of their lives and money too. A harsh and dreadful charge this! and the pamphleteer himself, (tho a very scurrilous one) seem'd so sensible of the heaviness of the charge, that he says, 'if at any time the contrary is made appear, I shall be ready to acknowledge the injustice of my own, and others censures, in a publick recantation in print, as I here charge them: This was a fair promise of the pamphleteer, after so foul a Charge, but remains yet unperform'd.

for

For the contrary has long since been made appear, but the publick recantation has not yet appear'd.

These struggles however, did by no means discourage him from going on with an attempt, which he knew would prove for the general good of mankind; he next address'd the Surgeons of the Hospitals, and all of them, except Mr. Cheselden, rejected his proposals. Mr. Cheselden, to his honour be it spoken, examin'd into the Truth, and approv'd the method, or otherwise, in all probability, if he had remain'd to this day, without the benefit of this Assistance; And now, at last,

since this practice is universally allow'd and come in vogue, now, that the whole Society of Surgeons have unanimously admitted Mr. Douglas, as one of their honorary Members, upon that very account; Why now truly, Mr. Cheselden himself endeavours, as far as in him lies to rob him of his fame, as he has been already too frequently robb'd of his patients. Mr. Cheselden would arrogate to himself the chief merits of these performances, tho' he can but pretend to the second honours the day, and ought, instead of presuming to be the leading man in that way, to be contented with what is a sufficient honour to him, the having been the first approv

approver, and introducer, of the person who projected this, for the good of mankind.

We find that this was the invention of former days, but no body had the courage to perform it. Rossetus frequently lamented his want of opportunity of trying it; de Franco did try it, and tho' he even succeeded, wanted courage to recommend the practice of it to others. Hence every man declin'd the operation: Mr. Douglas effectually read the theory, and was (notwithstanding what Mr. Cheselden so craftily insinuates to the contrary) the first bold adventurer, but not bolder than he was wise; for after trying it on dead bodies, he has turn'd it
with

with great success to the advantage of the living, and had he liv'd in any other age, he would not probably have met with so many discouragements. But, that, instead of wounding his character, redounds as much to his fame, as what he has done, does to the benefit of mankind.

How different were the censures of former ages from these of ours; Marcus Aurelius Severinus, in his excellent piece, de Medicina Efficaci, tells us of a wound of the abdomen, where the intestine forc'd itself out, and being so inflated, could by no means be restored to its proper place; it eluded the force of medicines, the strength of the hand, as it did all their cunning
In-

Inventions ; it was dangerous to dilate the wound, for the patient wanted Strength to undergo so severe an operation. Among all these difficulties, Monsieur Pigray, an able Surgeon, bethought himself of pricking it gently with the point of a fine needle, which made the patient by the force of nature, in an instant to draw it in, and when it retir'd, he immediately stitch'd up the wound, and soon completed a cure.

This action induces him to make an ingenious and ingenuous reflection, that Pigray deserves to be everlastingly recorded for that single action, if he had never done any thing memorable besides, in the healing art :
and

and here I must put this question a fortiori, how would this great man, if he had liv'd in our days been lavish of his eulogies, in favour of a person, whom we are not ashamed to slight and despise?

The author, whom I last mention'd, was a miracle of wit, and wisdom, who had collected the best sentiments of all who liv'd and writ before him; and as the famous Bartholine says, he was astonish'd at the profoundness of his works: his Book, *de abscondita abscessuum natura*, is a lasting monument of his greatness, and he, well worthy of the imitation of the brightest Spirits this age has produc'd.

Now Sir, if the Physicians and Surgeons of our times, would show the same forwardness, and the same ardour, in encouraging merit, as Severinus has done; we might, perhaps, once more see the day, when all the discoveries of antiquity would break out afresh, into their former lustre, and be happily practis'd by modern hands, to the unspeakable benefit of mankind. *

And indeed, Boerhave, who is one of the most celebrated professors of physick, that Europe has produc'd; who has read almost every thing that is worth reading in any language, has given Mr. Douglas a character,

H

* Several operations of the antients, are lost; at least, so uncer-

racter, that makes amends for
 all the other flights put together,
 which he either has, or shall
 meet with, when he says, ' I
 ' could wish I were a crown'd
 ' head, if it were for no other
 ' end, than to have it in my pow-
 ' er to reward that bold Britton,
 ' who first ventur'd to cut for
 ' the stone in the High way. '

This saying, is at the same
 time both an honour and shame
 to our nation : It is an honour
 to the Island to have produc'd
 such merit, but a shame to us,
 that we afterwards, either op-
 press'd or neglected it ; and that
 one of the learned'st foreigners
 now living, should be the only
 man to witness to such worth,
 in a genius of Brittain, of which
 our own natives are either en-

tirely silent, or, what is still worse, speak in the most unhandsome terms.

It is with this view only I speak of Mr. Douglas, because his Interest in this, seems interwoven with that of many others.

I know not how soon it might be my own fate, to be thus supplanted if a design, which I have had some time in view, should be put in execution; and from thence the excellencies and Advantages of a certain practice, should be reviv'd and brought to use, which has lain asleep for many ages: But really I must avow this truth, that if those who have labour'd hard for the publick good, be any longer thus discourag'd, I shall be tempted to shrink from the

design, and even, if I had reason to think no person after would be so happy to revive it, let it, for my part, lie for ever buried in oblivion.

Hence, Mr. Cheselden can't find fault, that he has met with this honest reprimand, but would do well to own, that he feels a due compunction of heart after so full and plenary a conviction, that he has done a thing, which gives so ill example, and may be attended with many consequences detrimental to the interest of his fellow creatures. *

I am,

S I R,

Yours, &c

* Siquidem meâ opinione, nihil iniquius, nihil turpius, nihil fœdius, quam furtivis, instar Æsopicæ Corniculæ, aliorum pennis sublimi ferire vertice.



T O T H E
R E A D E R.

I H A V E, in order to make good the charge against Mr. CHESELDEN, colated his treatise, on the High Operation, with Mr. DOUGLAS's Lithotomia, or Method of Cutting for the Stone; and in justice to both, plac'd what has been said by each, under their respective names; by which, without much trouble, it may appear to others, as it has done plainly to me, that I had solid and sufficient Reasons to ground every part of my charge upon.

H

A P-



APPENDIX.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.


Mr. DOUGLAS.



Lithotomia Douglassiana: or a new method of Cutting for the Stone, first practised by John Douglas Surgeon, F. R. S. Illustrated with several Copper Plates. London. 1723.

CELSUS'S Method.

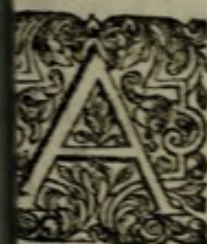
THE method of operating used by the antient Grecians, Latins, and Arabians was first describ'd by A. C. Celsus, whence it was call'd Celsica: afterwards Apparatu Minor, and now cutting on the gripe. vid pag. 14.



APPENDIX.

stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina fur es. mart.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

 Treatise on the High Operation for the Stone, with seventeen Copper Plates. By William Cheselden Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital in Southwark, and F. R. S. London, 1723.

C E L S U S ' s Method.

T H E most ancient way of cutting for the stone, is that described by Aulus Cornelius Celsus, as it was practised by the Greeks and Romans, now called cutting on the gripe, or with the lesser Apparatus. vid. pref. pag. i.

52 APPENDIX.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

MARIANUS'S Method.

This Method of operating was invented and practised by Jo. de Romanis, but was first published by his Disciple, Marianus Sanctus Barolitanus, whence it was called Mariana, afterwards Apparatus Major, (because of the great number of Instruments used in making it) and now, Cutting on the Staffe. p 17.

FREERE JACQUE'S Method,

Is very exactly describ'd, and its inconveniencies shewn, by that excellent Surgeon, Monsieur Mery, as also by Monsieur Dionis, to whom I refer the inquisitive reader.

Dr. RAU'S Method.

I am informed, that Dr. Rau had very extraordinary success, and tho' he cut up on a Staff, he made the wound very near the same place, as in cutting on the Grip

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

MARIANUS's Method.

IN the year 1524. Marianus published an account of the way of cutting upon the staff, or with the greater Apparatus, which his Master Joannes de Romanis, of Cremona in Italy, invented and practised with good success. p. ii.

FRERE JACQUE's Method.

In the year 1697. Frere Jacques, as Dionis relates, an ecclesiastick in France, came to Paris to practise his new invented way of cutting for the stone, which was by the direction of a staff into the Bladder, near the Rectum, &c. p. ibid.

Mr. RAU's Method.

But the late Mr. Rau, professor of anatomy at Leyden, perform'd it afterwards in Holland, cutting exactly between the entrance of the ureters, and with great success.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

and so went directly into the Cavity of the Bladder, without touching the Urethra, as in the common way.

I do not hear that he has publish'd any account of it himself, and therefore refer the curious to the learned Professors at Leyden, who were Eye-Witnesses of his dexterity and success, for a more particular description of it.

p. 31.

ROSSETUS's Scheme.

My Friend, Dr. Horseman, brought me from Paris in November last, the second Edition of Rossetus de partu Cæsareo, printed in 1590. In which I find the high operation proposed and described with great judgment, sagacity, and exactness.

He proposes three ways, of making this operation, in all which the bladder must be distended with some liquor.

p. 27.

'I have a great while imagin'd, that the
'Stone might safely be extracted through

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

ess. In my opinion, this way of cutting exceeds the two former, and would be yet better, if the bladder was fill'd with water before the operation.

ROSSETUS.

Rosset (vid. p. 37.) recommends the doing this operation in another way; he describes the parts like a good Anatomist, and judiciously shews what should be done, and what avoided. Yet his best method of operating, in my opinion, is not altogether perfect. He exhorts Surgeons to make this Operation; ‘Sine metu calumniae, --- possit, & debeat, though he never did it himself upon living Bodies, and for some time deferred even the publishing his thoughts about it, ‘Per abdomen cystotomiam absolvi feliciter posse jamdudum
‘dum

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Mr. DOUGLAS.

‘ the Hypogastrium, but the novelty of the
 ‘ operation, and the unbridled Tongues of
 ‘ malicious people, deter’d me from it. p. 27

PIERRE DE FRANCO’S Method.

What Authors call the High Operation
 i. e. cutting for the stone, on the lower
 part of the Belly, was first practised by
 Peter de Franco of Turriere, in Provence,
 of which he gives the following account
 in his Treatise of Hernia’s, published at
 Lyons, 1581. vid. p. 24, 25.

In page 26. Mr. Douglas speaking of
 de Franco, says; Though he succeeded
 we ought never to attempt it; For which
 he is severely reprehended by the most
 judicious Rossetus, in these words,

‘ But I very much wonder why, after
 ‘ his Success, he should advise us not to
 ‘ attempt this method. Did that good
 ‘ man envy mankind the happiness of his
 ‘ discovery, though accidental, and as if
 ‘ were forc’d upon him, or was he afraid
 ‘ tha

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

‘dum augurabar, sed operis novitas &
 ‘thrasonum quorundam os infrene mihi
 ‘silentium imperabant. pref. p. v.

PIERRE DE FRANCO,

Is the first Author that mentions cutting for the stone above the os pubis, he says his operation succeeded in an extraordinary manner, yet he discourages others from performing it, for which Rosset censures him severely. p. iv.

But I cannot forbear very much wondering, why he should afterwards discourage others from attempting the like operation. Does that good man envy mankind the happiness of the invention (although accidental and forced upon him) or is he afraid it will lessen his own and

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libri.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

‘ that it would be detrimental to him and
 ‘ his Fraternity, or did he fear being expelled
 ‘ their Society in an ignominious manner:
 ‘ Of what use would his discovery have
 ‘ been to Posterity, when he forbids us to
 ‘ practice it, even on the most promising
 ‘ Subjects; though he himself succeeded
 ‘ on an Infant worn out and half dead
 ‘ with Pain, after all other methods had
 ‘ been try’d in vain. p. 28.

Mr. Rossetus’s Book, de partu Cæsareo, (in which he proposes this new Method of cutting for the stone) being so very excellent, and so very hard to be met with, I thought I could not oblige the reader
more

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

collegiates gains? or does he dread their branding him with some mark of infamy, or their expelling him their fraternity and company, as if he had disgrac'd the rest of his brethren, by out-doing them? for what shall hereafter prevent that operation's being again successful, which has already been experienced to have been so? and why should not that operation be successful, where the patient has good strength, which has been known to have been so, where the patient was a little infant, almost dead, his Strength being worn out, having been miserably tormented, all other methods being tried upon him before to no purpose? p. 67.

In my own account of this Operation, I have fairly set down every thing that I judged most material to be known, without the least disguise or partiality to myself, and that the Reader might see what
had

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

more, than by reprinting all that he says about it, in the same order it was wrote; that thereby every one may see, what an inestimable Jewel has lain neglected, for above one hundred and thirty Years, in the dust of Antiquity; and there it might still have lain, had not I both improved, and successfully executed his Design, by which, we ought to be encourag'd to search more carefully (than hitherto we have done) into the relicts of those antient and divine Men, instead of contemning them, as the fashion is among those, who know little, and have read nothing; and who knows what farther discoveries may be soon made?

p. 75.

Mr. Douglas farther adds,

This excellent Author has certainly been very little read, or very ill understood, else this method had not been so long a secret: Had I been so lucky as to have met with that invaluable Book, before I had cut living bodies, it would have saved me a vast

APPENDIX. 61

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

MR. CHESELDEN.

had been before done, and that I might not be suspected of arrogating to my self any part of this Operation, which was not my own invention (which I confess is very little) I have added to it a translation of what had been writ upon the subject by several Authors, and though that of Rosset may appear in some places not very intelligible, yet those who know the Author will find he has no injustice done him. p.ix.

62 APPENDIX.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

deal of thought, labour, and expence, in composing the theory of my operation, it is so clearly and evidently demonstrated, and accounted for, in that profound and venerable author. p. 32.

Mr. Douglas has likewise given us all that Rosset wrote, concerning the High Operation, in Rossets own words in Latin, from p. 75, to 120.

In the objections against this method, formerly answer'd: The first is, That the Guts will burst out at the Wound; the answer is, That the Intestines are kept from bursting out at the Wound by the Peritonæum, which is situated between the bladder and the Bowels. p. 66.

But as the Peritonæum may happen to be wounded, Mr. Douglas gives us this proof, that such a wound is not extremely dangerous. In this patient (says he, meaning the fourth he cut,) I made a small wound in the peritonæum, through

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

From Page 37. of his Book, to p. 139. he has caused to be translated all that Rosset wrote concerning the high operation, into English.

In this Author particularly, (meaning Rosset) every objection that might be raised against this way of cutting is fully answered, except that of the Intestines being liable to be let out of the abdomen, which indeed is terrible, but even that is not mortal, as I have shewn by the two cases in the Appendix. p. ix.

REMARK.

These two Cases (between which and the case in hand there is no manner of analogy) might have been express'd in two lines, are pompously set forth with a particular title-page, two Copper-plates, and other

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

which I saw the Intestines present themselves, but I push'd them back with my Fingers, and stitched the Skin, and we had no farther inconveniency from it; the Boy at this very time serves Dr. Stewart in Pall-Mall.

p. 59.

The Patient is to be placed flat upon his back on the table, with a thick pillow under his head, then his wrists and ancles are to be fasten'd together with straps.

The Operation consists of three parts.

First, In filling the bladder, which is done thus; Pass the Catheter, Tab. 4. fig. 1. then draw out the Stillet, fig. 2. then fill the syring, fig. 7. with luke-warm water, then fix it to the brass head of the flexible tube, fig. 4. with the key, fig. 8. then order your assistant to gripe the penis, so as the water may not regurgitate, then press the water leisurely into the bladder, until you perceive it is raised so far above the os pubis, that there is room enough

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

other Ornaments, that they are extended from page 123, to 180, which, as it finishes his Book, so it finishes the whole show, the Book, in that sense, being all of a piece.

The patient being placed upon a bed or quilt laid upon a Table, with his head on a pillow, his legs off the table, his thighs raised, and his back a little hollow, so as to relax the abdominal muscles; then we pass a ligature loosely above each knee, and fasten it to the outside of the table, the assistant on each side holding his hands. And having passed the catheter; another assistant grasping the penis gently with his hand, to prevent a reflux of the water; we inject as much warm barley water as will fill the bladder to its utmost natural distention, more being of little or no use to the operation; but very painful, if not dangerous, to the patient. Into a

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

to make a sufficient incision into it, then withdraw the syring, and get the penis assistant to extract the catheter very gently, taking particular care to straiten his gripe, so as none of the water follows it, then let him turn the penis down towards the anus, which will hinder the water from spurting out, and also keep his hand out of the way.

N. B. If the bladder is filled too full it gives great pain, relaxes its fibres so much, that they will with great difficulty, if ever recover their natural tone, and forcibly separates the peritonæum from the muscles of the abdomen, which may occasion inflammations, imposthumations, &c.

If it is not filled enough, it will be impossible to make a sufficient incision into it, and consequently to extract the stone without contusing and lacerating the parts, as in the common operations.

The medium between these two extremes must be found out by the sagacity of the operator.

Secondly.

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina fur es.

Mr. C H E S E L D E N.

man full grown may be injected near twelve ounces, and into a boy nine years old, about eight ounces; allowance being made for the size of the stone, which being difficult to do exactly, the proper quantity for every patient, may, I think, be more certainly known from the swelling of the abdomen just above the os pubis, if the integuments are thin; by the patients growing uneasy from the extension of the bladder; and from the resistance which the operator feels to the injection. And that we may the better judge with what quantity of water we distend the bladder, the urine should be discharged, before the injection is made. And because an immediate connection of the syringe and the catheter, without the intervention of a flexible tube, would make the catheter too liable to be moved in the bladder, and give great uneasiness; I therefore join'd them together by an oxes ureter (vid. tab. VII.) which effectually prevented that in-

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

Secondly, In making the wound, which is done thus:

Take the first knife, fig. 9. and cut at leisure, and with a steady hand exactly in the middle, from near the upper part of the tumor of the bladder, or lower according to the computed bigness of the stone down to the os pubis, continue the incision till you have got so low, that you can distinctly feel the fluctuation of the liquor in the bladder with your fingers (which will happen before you are quite through the muscles) then wipe off the blood with the sponge wrung out of warm water, then take the second knife, fig. 10. and place its back in the middle of the os pubis, then run its point down towards the collum vesicæ, until you get into the cavity of the bladder (which is discover'd by the issuing out of the water) then holding your knife in a perpendicular line, run it along very quickly towards the fund of the bladder, as far as necessary.

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

convenience. But before we leave this part of the operation, I must recommend the passing the catheter deliberately, and gently, choosing rather to seem less artful in doing it, than secretly to hurt the patient, for the reputation of doing it quick and dextrously: and indeed I judge this no unnecessary caution in every part of the operation.

The bladder being filled, and the catheter drawn out the assistant must continue to hold the penis until the incision is made into the bladder; I think it may be best held between the fore-fingers, or the fore-finger and thumb, the assistants hand being placed between the patient's thighs, for in this manner the penis may be so held, that neither the skin of the abdomen shall be any way extended, nor the assistants hand interrupt the operator. The first incision may be made with a round edged knife (vid. tab. VII. A.) through the skin, the membrana adiposa, between the muscoli recti and pyramidales,

even

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Mr. D O U G L A S.

N. B. If the wound in the bladder is made too large, then you are in danger of penetrating into the cavity of the abdomen.

If it is made too small, then you cannot extract the stone, but with great difficulty, it being hardly possible to enlarge the wound afterwards with safety.

The incision of the skin, and major part of the muscles, ought always to be larger than that of the bladder, which will very much facilitate the extraction of the stone.

Thirdly, in extracting the stone, which is done thus:

The wound being made, pass the fore and middle fingers of your left hand into the bladder, to examine the figure and bigness of the stone, then if small, pass the fore and middle fingers of the right, into the anus, and raise it up towards the wound, then you can easily catch hold of it with your fingers that are in the wound, and draw it out: but if it is large after having discovered its figure by your fingers,

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

even to the bladder near the os pubis; for in that part it may be done safely, the bladder there not lying close to the integuments: (vid. tab. V.) this first incision in a man may be about four inches long, one end of it extending almost to the skin of the penis. Then introducing a straight edged knife (vid. tab. VII. B.) with the back lying upon the foremost, or middle finger of the left hand to direct it, the incision may be securely finish'd upwards, and the bladder layed bare from the os pubis, near three inches long. Then passing a crooked knife (vid. tab. VII. C.) into the bladder near the urachus, until the point is near the centre of the bladder, so that bringing it out it may cut under the os pubis; and immediately, while the water is flowing out, a finger should be introduced into the bladder, with which the forceps, (which may be very thin) will be directed to take hold of the stone, which, if large, should not be extracted hastily, be-

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. D O U G L A S.

introduce the forceps, fig. 12. between them, into the bladder, then turn the stone into the forceps, with the small end foremost, and take fast hold of it, then draw out your fingers, and afterwards the stone, with leasure and caution, if it breaks, or there is more than one, take them out with your fingers as before.

The stone being extracted, lay two or three pledgets of lint armed with some good digestive over the wound, and a bolster of tow over them; then undo the straps, and carry the patient to bed: then embrocate all the abdomen, scrotum, and penis, with warm ol. chamomil. then turn a swath a little broader than the patient's hand once round him, and pin it on the dressings just tight enough to keep them on, then order warm stupes to be laid very frequently on his belly, wrung out of a strong decoction of wormwood, chamomile, &c. or out of equal parts of fresh urine and lime-water.

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

because that encreases the resistance: the wound may be dressed with any digestive medicine, upon which may be layed a soft compress, kept on with an easy bandage. The digestive I used was this, ceræ flav. ℥iv. ol. lini ℥iij tereb. venet ℥j. The wounds for sometime were fomented at each dressing, which was at first, every six hours, except they were asleep, and as long as the urine came through the wounds, the parts about were constantly anointed, to preserve them from being excoriated by the urine, which happened to my first patient.

History of the success of this method,
from pag. 11. to 21.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

If they are not inclinable to sleep, soon after the operation, they must take a gentle opiate, because nothing is so proper a rest.

The same evening dress the wound, and embrocate the abdomen as before, then anoint the groins, scrotum, and penis with unguent alb. or desiccativum rubr. to prevent their being scalded by the urine then apply the stupes as above.

The embrocation and stupes are to be continued till the wound is well digested and the ointment, till the water comes at the right way.

The wound is to be dress'd three or four times a day; when its well digested, they ought always to lie on one side or the other, which will very much hasten the cure.

All the urine flows through the wound until the wound of the bladder is cured which is sooner or later, according to the constitution of the patient.

The

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

They ought not to be forc'd to go to stool, under six or seven days, unless some particular reason requires it, because straining to stool injures the wound.

History of the success of this method, from pag. 56 to 63.

The parts cut, are the external teguments, muscles of the abdomen, and body of the bladder.

N. B. I should have been more particular in the description of these parts, did not my brother Dr. Douglas design speedily to oblige the world with a full and correct description, not only of the part concerned in this, but also of those in all the other ways of cutting. p. 47.

Instruments to be prepared before the operation. p. 48.

1. The table which must be three or four inches lower at one end, than the other.

2. The straps, which ought to be ver

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

Of the parts to be operated upon.

The outer skin, the membrana adiposa, and the linea alba.

Tab. VII. pag. 28.

A, A, Part of the injecting syringe which holds ten ounces.

B, The end of the syringe fitted into the pipe C.

C, The injecting pipe.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

3. A cup with oil.
4. The catheter and stillet, tab. 4. fig. 1, 2.
5. The flexible tube with its heads, fig. 4, 5, 6. one of which is screwed into the head of the catheter, and the other is slip'd upon the nose of the syringe.

N. B. The tube is made of an Ox's ureter, and was first contrived by Mr. Cheselden.

6. The syringe, fig. 7. which ought to hold water enough to fill the bladder at once, or twice at most.

7. The catheter key, fig. 8.

9. A sponge.

10. The second incision knife, fig. 10.

11. The new instrument, fig. 11.

It is about the thickness of a common case knife, has no edge but from x to x, which is as sharp as a razor.

Its other dimensions are as in the figure, and are to be alter'd as the case requires.

12. The forceps, fig. 12.

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

D, D, D, An oxes ureter tied at one end upon the injecting pipe, and at the other end upon the catheter.

E, The catheter.

Tab. VIII. p. 29.

The knives used in this operation.

A, A round edged knife to cut through the integuments.

B, A strait edged knife to lay the bladder bare as far as is convenient.

C, The knife to cut the bladder.

REMARK.

I must make one remark before I conclude this Appendix, which my impartiality will by no means permit me to pass by in silence, it being thought by Mr. Cheselden's Friends an argument of the highest importance, and tending to prove a mighty difference between the manner of incision made use of by Mr. Douglas, and that made use of by Mr. Cheselden.

Mr.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris:

Mr. DOUGLAS.

REMARK.

Mr. Douglas's way of cutting is upwards, as from B to A.

Mr. Cheselden's very different way of cutting consists, in making the very same stroke of incision, by cutting downwards as from A to B.

A
|
B

A
|
B

Quæritur, Whether it is to be call'd mathematical and essential, or accidental difference, between two equal lines, when the nib of the pen drawing one line, begins at punctum B and ends at A, and the nib of the other pen drawing the other Line, begins at punctum A and ends at B?

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

R E M A R K.

Since both cut in the very same place, and both make the very same wound, with the very same instrument, through the very same parts; and since the very same terrible ----- (vid. Mr. Cheselden's pref. p. 9.) does happen in both ways; where then is the mighty improvement, so much boasted of by Mr. Cheselden and his Friends? Where is the quite different way of cutting from Mr. Douglas's way they so warmly insinuate, and so industriously propagate every where? Name me the difference who can? 'Et eris mihi magnus Apollo.

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

MR. DOUGLAS.

In page 121, Mr. Douglas gives us an account of a thesis, (the title of which is, 'Quæstio medica. Quodlibetaneis disputationibus mane discutienda in scholis medicorum die jovis 13^o Decembris 1635, M. Nic. Pietreo M. D. Moderatore. Reponerat lutetiæ, Petrus le Mercier. An, ad extrahendum calculum, dissecanda ad pubem vesica?) sent to him in the following words. I had a copy of a most rare and antient thesis, lately sent me from Paris, by that most excellent anatomist, Dr. Winflow, one of the members of the Royal Academy of Sciences, which I don't doubt will be acceptable to the curious reader: (To whom accordingly he presents it, in the latin, just as it came to his hands, and with this learned question he concludes his treatise, giving a handsome recommendation of it in these words) This very Thesis is mention'd in the fourth Century of Bartholine's Epistles in a Letter from Guido Patin, dated at Paris,

Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

Mr. CHESELDEN.

The latin thesis presented to Mr. Douglas, is caus'd to be translated by Mr. Cheselden, for the benefit of the curious English reader. He calls it, A Question propos'd to be disputed on, in the Philosophick Schools in Paris, on Thursday December 13. 1723. by Peter le Mercier.
 " Whether or no in cutting for the Stone
 " in the Bladder the incision should be
 " made at the pubes? From p. 140 to
 " 150.

CONCLUSION.

I am glad I have at last found an end of the dull and tedious labour of collating, which was as tiresome to me in the writing, as it must be disagreeably irksome to the friends of Mr. Cheselden in the reading: I profess I don't love to make comparisons at any time, I know 'em generally odious, but more particularly so in this case, than any I have met with for a long while:
 How-

Indice non opus est, nostris nec vindice libris.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

Paris, in the year 1662. “ De secunda
 “ ad pubem vesica, thesin composuit in
 “ scholis nostris olim agitatum, vir max-
 “ imus ac insignis doctrinæ, Mag. Nico-
 “ laus Pietreus, quam veluti vitiosam &
 “ multis nævis ac erroribus anatomicis re-
 “ fertam graviter improbat, Jo. Riola-
 “ nus, Pietrei ex forore Nepos.

Whence it is evident, that it's no new
 thing for some sort of people vigorously and
 zealously to oppose all innovations in sur-
 gery, as well as in ----- though never so
 much more rational and advantageous to
 mankind. p. 125.



Stat contra, dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.

CONCLUSION.

However, Mr. Cheselden has no body to blame for this but himself: and since he made the comparison necessary for the justification of Mr. Douglas, he must likewise bear the necessary consequence of the Comparison as well as he can, although it should prove a rigid kind of penance, that will fill his heart with confusion, and cover his face with the guilty blushes of a plagiary, according to the motto out of martial, which is as justly placed here at the end, as it is at the top of the Page.

Dicitque tibi, tua pagina, fur es.





A
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
LETTER.

HERE is one thing omitted in my letter, which having since recollected, I have inserted here. I remark'd, that Mr. Douglas and Mr. Cheselden have both of them assum'd too much freedom, in telling the world what ought to be prescrib'd their patients, by way of preparative for the operation, which is treading a little too close upon the heel of the Physician: and since I have already censured Mr. Cheselden so frequently and so justly, I might well be thought partial, if, where Mr. Douglas is equally in the wrong, I should not reprehend him as freely

reely as Mr. Cheselden; and truly Mr. Douglas deserves most correction, for as he led Mr. Cheselden right in other cases, in this, he must own, he has remarkably misled him, not only in thinking, but in expressing what he thinks.

Mr. Douglas says, the patients are to be bled, purged, &c. as their constitutions will bear, or their case may require, and must always take a clyster the night before. vid. p. 13.

Mr. Cheselden says, before we go about this operation, it seems necessary that the intestines should be emptied, to prevent their pressing upon the bladder, for this very reason, I ORDER my patients a tender diet for about two days, and clysters before the operation. p. 6.

As it is neither of their professions to prescribe, being operators only, it would seem presumption in them, to offer directions that way, where able Physicians (whose province it is) are at hand to be consulted: In the Country, indeed, where proper advice is not so easily had, their experience may be allow'd in some habits of
body,

body, to declare what's convenient; but here, where its otherwise, -----

‘ Ne futor ultra crepidam.

This is no new sentiment of mine, it was long since observ'd, before any of us liv'd; for Hildan, in his Lithotomy (ch. 9. p. 69.) says, ‘When a Surgeon is call'd
‘ to undertake the cutting for the stone
‘ (for it does not become an honest man to
‘ thrust himself upon this, or the like difficult work, like a Mountebank) he shall
‘ not then immediately apply his knife to his
‘ patient, and deal with him, as a butcher
‘ er doth with his beast, tie him to a form
‘ no, surely, another course must be taken;
‘ ken; for if thou wouldest perform the
‘ work regularly, and have a clear conscience
‘ ence before God, the body of the patient
‘ is to be prepared by a proper diet, purging,
‘ ging, bleeding, &c. before the operation.
‘ tion.

‘ And here again, every artist must have
‘ an especial care, to consult with some
‘ skilful Physician, who can discover the
‘ nature of his patient, and constitution of
‘ his viscera.

‘ I con

‘I confess it is a most difficult thing (says Monsieur Duverney) to hit always aright, because nature herself so often varies her method, and operates by ways so conceal’d, and so little understood, that she overthrows by accidents which we expect not, and are ignorant of, the whole œconomy of our operations.

‘It is not sufficient that you are able to perform an operation, but you must also be acquainted with the subject you are to perform it on; by which, I mean, the disposition and temperament of the patient.

‘The disposition of the patient, regards the regimen of living, the inclination, age, season, habit, and strength; for if a patient follows an ill regimen, if he is emaciated, weak, of an age that permits not the operation; or if he hath greater Inclination to those things which are hurtful to him, than to those that are serviceable, the Surgeon ought to suspend his Judgment, and not to run any risque.

‘ If the stone is of so large a size that
 ‘ you cannot extract it, you must leave
 ‘ the patient to his repose, lest he should
 ‘ die under your hands: He says, a friend
 ‘ of his having cut a man in Italy, found
 ‘ a stone of such a prodigious size, that
 ‘ he was oblig’d to leave it in the bladder,
 ‘ that he dy’d six hours after; and the
 ‘ stone taken out of his bladder weigh’d
 ‘ one pound and a half, of the figure of
 ‘ tortoise.

‘ That in cancerous dispositions, if re-
 ‘ medies be not adapted with the greatest
 ‘ circumspection, we do but irritate them,
 ‘ whereby it becomes more furious in its
 ‘ ravages.

The extraction of every stone is not to
 be attempted, nor are all sick Persons af-
 flicted with the stone, fit to be cut, says
 Hildan.

‘ Desperati non sunt attingendi, says
 Celsus.

Alghisi, Accademician professor of Sur-
 gery, and first Surgeon in the hospital
 Sancta Maria Novella, at Florence,

his Lithotomy, printed there 1707, in folio, says,

‘ That it is not sufficient the Lithotomist has found out the stone in the bladder, and so, without any further consideration, to come immediately to the operation: It behoves him to consider the circumstances; as, whether with the stone there be a wound, or any other inward disease. Let him call for the assistance of an experienc’d Physician, in order to prepare his Body, that it may be duly fitted for the operation; for some bodies are vigorous, and of a hot and fiery disposition, which are often in danger of being inflam’d, without great caution and preparation us’d, even a long time before the operation.

‘ Besides bleeding, as occasion requires, such patients must have easie and gentle evacuants, for these will be found to answer the intention much better than brisker purgatives, which irritate, and apparently impair strength. Wine is apt to inflame, so not proper.

‘ A regular and exact diet is to be ob-
 ‘ serv’d, simple and nourishing food, in
 ‘ order to invigorate the Patient.

Other bodies are less vigorous, and of
 a temperament more cool than the former;
 in these, certainly there is more necessity
 of preserving the strength they have
 than in those of a warmer make; which
 by reason of their much vigour, are sub-
 ject to many strange accidents.

‘ Now it may very frequently come to
 ‘ pass, that the patient may die sooner by
 ‘ those accidents which accompany, or
 ‘ follow the operation, than he would do
 ‘ if he carry’d the stone in his bladder.

It is therefore a matter of very great im-
 portance for a Lithotomist, to be of great
 courage, but yet not rash and self-sufficient
 in undertaking operations of so difficult
 nature, even in cases, where he has toler-
 able hopes of success, because there are
 many unhappy casualties, and so many
 unforeseen accidents that may intervene.

How frequently have the least and trivial
 ails, the most insignificant wounds, and
 even the scratch of a pin, or pricking of
 need

needle, when they have befallen persons during a very vicious habit of body, requir'd all the skill of the Physician's Head, and all the dexterity of the Surgeon's Hand, to work the accomplishment of their cure?

The very same ill that in one Constitution, might be very easily remedied by a very indifferent pretender, shall, in another Constitution, put the most judicious Physician to his wits end, and notwithstanding all his ingenuity, learning, and experience, make him own himself puzl'd, and doubtful what course to take.

Innumerable are the instances of mistakes, committed by rash and self-sufficient Surgeons, for want of a due regard to the habit of body. I could fill a volume with examples of fatal and irretrievable ones, which I have observ'd during twenty six years practice; but as the narrow bounds of this undertaking, won't permit many, I shall beg only to instance in one or two.

Let it then suffice to mention, that I was once sent for, to see a lusty person, who by some accident, met with a slight rub,
that

that only ras'd a piece of the skin from his leg: An officious Surgeon, it seems, had been with him; ignorant of the constitution of the patient he had to deal with, fell to work, without thinking on any preparation. The patient's body was soon inflam'd; an Erisepylas suddenly succeeded, thence a Gangrene, and he who was a fat jolly man, in all appearance, within the space of forty eight hours, become a Corps.

In the year 1705, an eminent Surgeon of my acquaintance, had but a whitlow on his finger, which seem'd at first an insignificant trifle; it soon alter'd its face, and look'd in so threatening a manner, that it occasioned a consultation of Surgeons; according to the advice of the rest, one of them cut it. The malignity so spread on a sudden, that if they had nothad recourse to an immediate amputation of one joint of his finger, the further loss of his hand, or even, his whole arm, could not have possibly been avoided. Well, the first joint of the finger was lop'd away; why, not even then, could all the dressings they were able

to

to apply to the remaining stump, be of any efficacy or force. The parts all around look'd black and livid, and threatned a sphacelus; vain and fruitless was all their skill, although (to do them justice) they exerted it all in their way; nothing was able to eradicate this stubborn enemy, till the Surgeon applied to the Physician, to join his forces. The first thing we did, was, to correct the whole mass of blood, and then indeed, but not till then, Surgery took place, and began to conquer the ill: However, tho' join'd, we proceeded very slowly on, for a long time, before we became entire masters of it. Strong decoctions of the woods, sarsa, &c. with a milk diet, were all we could allow him for five weeks, with a bolus of calomel, till he began to spit, and that, at most, was but gently; for he was reduced to the utmost extremity, and was given over by those who preceeded me. Two full months passed, before any sensible check, or turn, was given: during all which time, several angry red tumours, about the breadth of a sixpence, appear'd, be-

between the extremity of the amputated finger, and the top of his shoulder, which in two or three days, turn'd black, and the eschars that fell off, after three days dressings, were as thick as any I ever saw made by the strongest causticks. No sooner was the habit of body mended, but they disappear'd, and the finger mended apace, so that in about three months, he perfectly recover'd.

It is my opinion, that if this person had been cut for the stone, in the state he was in when the joint was extirpated, no man could have sav'd his Life; and though he found so light a wound grow to such a dangerous height under the Surgeons hand, while his body remain'd unprepar'd; it is likewise my opinion, that in as bad a state as he was, he might have been so prepar'd in a little time, as to have fitted him (if need had been) to undergo the severe operation of cutting for the stone, without any extraordinary danger, unless further mistakes of the operator, should have brought on farther mischiefs.

How many wounds in those cut for the stone, (during the seasons of cutting in the Hotel dieu, and Hotel de la Charitè, in Paris, which I carefully attended two years together) have I seen turn fistulous ulcers?

Mistakes easily happen, but the mischiefs occasion'd by em, after they once have happen'd, are seldom easie, and sometimes impossible to be retriev'd.

As courage is requisite in a Surgeon, and fear to be avoided, so caution is requisite, and rashness a vice in the other extreme.

A confidence of skill has committed more errors, than a sense of weakness, that naturally provideth caution.

It is undeniably evident, that the Science and practice of Physick, is one of the most extensive, most nice, and difficult undertakings in the world: A day would scarce suffice to enumerate the various subtilities that are to be observ'd in the curing of this or that single disease, says Sydenham, the consideration of which, properly belongs to the Physician.*

O

Is

* Quid dicam de divinis medici periti miraculis in prædicendo, & mortem & salutem, & tempora & qualitatem, adeo norit
ut

Is it not then a lamentable thing, that what Hildan says should be true, where he affirms, ‘ That many are so rash, that they stick not to cut men’s bodies, as Carpenters do their wood, and tho’ they see no hope of preserving the patient, by Lithotomy, nevertheless they care not they take his money, and deceive the world, that is fearlessly, and without advice of the skilful, they make incision on his body, a thing not to be allow’d for where there is no hope of recovery by Lithotomy, the thread of life is not to be cut off rashly; nor can it excuse ’em tho’ they pretend, it was the patient’s desire, that he entreated ’em to do it that he had rather die, than live long in such misery and Torment.

Let Surgeons therefore consider; that tho’ they are never so dextrous at opening veins and arteries, or performing any other

ut nullus vates, nulla deorum responsa mereantur illis conferri? Non sine multis verbis, non sine magnis studijs non absque ingeni excellentia, ac memoriae tenacitate, denique non sine maximis animi & corporis aestibus, ad gloriam ascendere potest medicus aut si nem suam obtinere.

other chirurgical operations: Yet, unless great experience has enabled their heads to direct their hands, they may do hurt, instead of doing good. It is an easie thing to open a vein, but not so easie to know when it is proper, and when and how far the constitution requires it.

As art is a habit, whose object is something to be done, so science is a habit, whose object is something to be known. Surgeons are the operators of what Physicians are judges; just as the hand acts what the head dictates. The science of the Physician is absolute and primitive, the practice of the Surgeon, dependent and derivative.

Let them not then confound the notions of Science, with those of Art: Let them keep to their own profession; it will require enough of their time to discharge their duty as they ought, without meddling with the science, which is to be left to the judgment of the Physician, whose whole life is short enough to form that judgment rightly, when he has spent it for that end, in laborious study, and continual Application.

of the human mind: For unless
 the experience has enabled their heads
 to direct their hands, they may do many
 sorts of things wrong. It is an odd thing
 upon a rainy day, but not to know
 that it will rain, and when and how far
 it will rain, is a more odd thing. It is
 an odd thing, whose object is to know
 what is to be done, to know it is a habit
 of the mind, in order to be known.
 We are not to know of what we
 are ignorant; but we are to know
 what we know. The science of the
 mind is not to know and understand
 the nature of the mind, but to know
 what it can do, and what it cannot do.

The first part of the mind is to know
 the nature of things, and the second
 part is to know the uses of things.
 The first part is to know the nature
 of things, and the second part is to
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