

**A critical enquiry into the ancient and modern manner of treating the diseases of the urethra : with an improved method of cure / By Jesse Foot.**

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CRITICAL ENQUIRY  
INTO THE  
ANCIENT and MODERN MANNER  
OF TREATING THE DISEASES OF THE  
URETHRA,  
WITH AN IMPROVED  
METHOD of CURE.

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By JESSE FOOT, of Salisbury-Street;  
One of the Company of Surgeons in London, and privileged  
Practitioner from the College at St. Petersburg.

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*Ubi Plura nitent, non ego Paucis offendar  
Maculis.*

HOR. FLAC.

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L O N D O N:

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obstruction, the spasms excited from violent irritations, besides other imprudencies, even to penetrating the partition betwixt the urethra and anus, are proceedings, which boldness itself could not authorize, and humanity forbade. From the earliest hour of these diseases to the present day, the Surgeon has been obliged to rely on his own ingenuity, and to proceed in the dark, for want of sufficient preceded rules to direct him in effecting a cure. The Bougie is talked of as a remedy in general terms; there is no doubt but it is a remedy, and a very radical one, when once the grand object is surmounted, that of getting over the obstructions in the Urethra, and of gaining a passage into the bladder. It is to effect this where the Surgeon is often bewildered and disappointed, at a period when his credit and reputation is eminently at stake. This difficulty arises from an error in the present general practice, wherefore not all the opportunities that hospitals afford, have as yet enabled the practitioner to act with a degree of confident authority, or have they served to remove that mysterious veil that at present obscures the application of the bougie. It is one thing to glide it up a smooth



smooth sound Urethra, and another to overcome obstruction after obstruction; and who will say, where there is a callous stricture or carnosity close to the neck of the bladder, how long the bougie will be gaining a passage over it, or that it will be made to pass at all? It shall be my task to endeavor in this Treatise to remove the difficulty of the first introduction of the bougie, which I hope will be a means of drawing the attention of others to a vigorous perseverance in overcoming a complaint the most distressing to the surgeon, the most dangerous to the patient. Almost every author, who has treated of the Urinal Obstruction, hath agreed to its being brought on in general from a former virulent Gonorrhœa, though there is no reason to doubt but that exceptions may be found to the contrary, rare as they are; besides the lodgement of stone or gravel, the Urethra is liable to other diseases; the wonder is that they are not more common, when one considers the delicacy of its structure and the number of glands of which it is composed. Many reasons are assigned for the obstructions produced through a former virulent gonorrhœa: The advocates for a cure by injections condemn the treatment of those who by rejecting



topical applications, spin out the disorder beyond a reasonable time, by which the canal becomes relaxed, the excretory ducts yield an encreased discharge, or ulcers are formed on the orifices of them, or strictures from the callous edges of these ulcers, which remain even after they heal, or caruncles, or bands crossing the Urethra, or the other train of symptoms hereafter to be described. On the other hand, those who deny the safety of a cure by injections, recoil the blame thrown upon them, by asserting that the urinal catastrophe derives its origin from injections variously compounded, and at various stages applied ; by denying the propriety of offering any sort to so delicate a part as the Urethra naturally is, made more so by the state of inflammation it then undergoes, when even an injection of warm water excites pain, and when whatever may tend specifically to destroy the virus, must destroy its own effect by heightening the inflammation. On my part, I do not wish to seek a dispute with either party, and can readily conceive that the urinal obstruction may be originated as well from the bad treatment on the one side as from the other. In a relaxed habit, violent purgings, bleeding, and other evacuations, will not, in my judgement



judgement, radically cure, no more than injections thrown up at the highest state of inflammation, both means will be ineffectual, if not very pernicious. Where the subject is languid, the circulation dull, the pulse low and creeping, who would not wisely encounter prejudices, and give the bark, as well as mercurials in such a state? Or again, on the other hand, if one sort of injection is safe at any time (of which I believe few doubt) it must be either at the immediate appearance of the gonorrhœal symptoms, before they have extended their influence over the canal, and by a *coup de main*, as it were, destroying the cause before the effects can come on: Or another sort, when the inflammatory symptoms are subdued, there remains a discharge of pus, or an incontinence of urine, both which will often obtain, under the hands of the most skilful and conscientious practitioners. But how much soever I am convinced that the disorders of the Urethra often spring from a wrong treatment, either by medicines received into the constitution, or by topical applications improperly exhibited; yet, I believe, all will concur with me in assigning another cause for those evils, and perhaps which is greater than



than either, or both the others. The generality of those who catch a gonorrhœa, are subjects of a very libidinous turn, given to drinking and debaucheries: They look upon the time they undergo in their cure as a greater hardship, in being restricted from their pleasures, than in the real suffering they feel from the disease itself. They apply to their surgeon, receive relief, the ardor urinæ, chordeé, and other inflammatory symptoms abated, trusting to a good constitution for perfecting the rest, they return to their pleasurable pursuits, as the gouty subject to his fauces, after having overcome a fit; nay, there are many men of pleasure, about this town, who make a syringe a part of their pocket equipage, and who undertake to lay their own plan of future misery: And here let me observe, that I know of no argument so strong against the use of injections, as that of the surgeon not being able to answer for the regularity of his patient during the use of them. It is not in human skill to guard against the evils that must follow to injections, when the patient is continually keeping up a stimulus and irritation on the parts, by drinking hard, feeding without restraint, sitting late at nights, and repeating his converse with women, be they sound or diseased.

I come



I come now to give a short anatomical description of the urinal canal, in order to form a more distinct and clear idea of those several obstructions, which, when formed, cause a suppression of the urine, often divert the stream of it, and by which it makes a way through some fistulous channel, continually laying waste and committing destruction on the parts along its unnatural rout. The inside of the urinal canal, is covered by an exquisite fine and delicate membrane, very susceptible, and full of capillary blood-vessels; on the surface of this membrane are found a great many little orifices, oblong, known generally by the name of lacunæ, various in their sizes. These lacunæ are the excretory ducts of as many small glands spread up and down the urethral substance. They pass into the spongy substance of the Urethra to the convex side of the internal urethral membrane, and open obliquely from behind forward, into the great canal. Their edges are of a semi-lunar or crescent form, on account of their oblique opening. There are two of these lacunæ, described by Morgagni, which are more considerable than the rest, situated near the glans penis, the one under the frænum, the other near the fossula navicularis. The gland  
near



near the frœnum, I have often seen inflame and come to suppuration, discharging itself externally by two orifices on each side of the frœnum. Farther up in the Urethra, there are three considerable lacunæ described by that ingenious and minute researcher Cowper ; two of these lacunæ or ducts make a considerable rout through the spungy substance of the Urethra, directing their course to two glandular bodies the size of a horse bean, of an oval figure, flat, and situated on the two convex sides of the spungy urethral substance near the ends of the crura penis ; these two glands are covered entirely by the muscles, called acceleratores urinæ ; the third duct leads to a gland smaller than the two described, placed in the spungy substance of the Urethra, near the curvature, which the canal describes under the pubis, and often opens by two orifices in the Urethra : In the cavity of the Urethra, towards its extremity, from without, inwards, several things offer very essential, and that demand our strictest attention. The prostratæ imply a plurality of glands, though only one in reality, of a shape like a chestnut, situated between the bulbous part of the Urethra and bladder, having its basis towards the bladder,

and



and apex towards the Urethra; it yields a limpid glutinous secretion which is conveyed into the Urethra by several excretory ducts. At the bottom of the urethral canal, lying within the prostate, and near the neck of the bladder, an oblong ovular eminence offers, terminating forward in a point, called *caput gallinaginis*, or *verumontanum*. This portion of substance is commonly perforated by one, sometimes two or three orifices, which are the excretory ducts of the *vesiculæ feminales*, there is a valve to each of these excretory ducts. The *vesiculæ feminales* are two bodies appearing like little bladders, situated under the bladder of urine, and on each side the prostate, each of them can be drawn into one single duct: They discharge into the Urethra, by the orifice, or orifices, above-mentioned, on the side of the *caput gallinaginis*, or *verumontanum*. In searching into antiquity for the origin of this disease, I find the ancients give the date of the urethral obstructions, not immediately after the first appearance of the virulent gonorrhœa. In the Venetian collection of the several writers on the venereal disease, in which are included no less than fifty nine authors, the most ancient of all is Nicolaus Leonicensus, of Vicentia, Anno 1497,



an author, who lived at the period of the first introduction of this disease into Europe, by Columbus's fleet, and two years before the siege of Naples. There are from his time of publication to that of Johannes Baptista Montanus, no less than thirty-three authors, who wrote on the same disorder, and are yet silent in the description either of a gonorrhœa, or any other disease of the Urethra. This Johannes Baptista Montanus, of Verona, wrote on the Lues Venerea, in the year 1550, and speaks of a gonorrhœa, which appeared among many other venereal symptoms, on a German nobleman, who had put himself under his care. After him, to the time of Alexander Trojanus Petronius, of Castile, who wrote on the venereal disease, in the year 1565, there appears in this collection no mention of diseases in the Urethra, although there are nineteen authors, whose productions are dated betwixt the former and latter period. This author says,

“ When a suppression of urine is occasioned by the  
 “ ulcerous forditities, or a caruncle in the Urethra,  
 “ emollient and detergent injections must be used.  
 “ All very sharp things are to be avoided, and  
 “ even the use of those that are but moderately  
 “ acrimonious is not to be long continued. In the  
 mean



“ mean time, while the urinary passage remains ob-  
 “ structed, all attempts made by diuretics to promote  
 “ the expulsion of urine are very dangerous. If in-  
 “ jections have been used to no purpose, the  
 “ Urethra must be cleared by a wax-candle or  
 “ some such instrument. In case of a caruncle,  
 “ gentle corrosives are to be introduced in a dry  
 “ form, or by injection, such as one scruple of  
 “ præcipitate, with two ounces of barley-water.  
 “ This is an effectual remedy in such a case, and  
 “ operates with the least pain of any corrosive that  
 “ I know of. \* The idea this writer had of the  
 disease of the Urethra, and the mode of treatment  
 he laid down, perhaps, when the reader comes  
 candidly to consider, it will not be found to vary  
 much from the present usage, however distant that  
 period was, and however unexperienced the practi-  
 oner must have been at the first appearance of a  
 symptom totally foreign, and to elucidate the  
 description of which no light had hitherto been  
 thrown. Ambrose Parry describes the caruncle  
 to be generated either in consequence of a sharp  
 acrimonious humour, flowing from the prostate,

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\* Vide Armstrong's Synopsis, page 397.



or by a venereal infection, separating their treatment and manner of cure; in order to remove the first obstacle, he advises a total abstinence from venery, cautions against acrid corroding injections, and depends on the cure by emollients in the shape of fomentations, unctions, and fumigations; and by inducing the caruncle to bleed, by repeatedly passing up the catheter. But if it be occasioned by the malignity of the lues venerea, he says, that the surgeon will lose his labour, if the patient does not observe a diet, such as is prescribed to those in the lues venerea, taking internally the Guaicum, and anointing the perinæum and whole yard with the antivenereal ointment. (Of the necessity of antivenereal remedies taken internally, for disorders in the Urethra, I shall speak hereafter.) He begins his attack upon the caruncle by lacerating with a sharp-pointed silver wire, concealed in the catheter, and passed up the Urethra, and by afterwards applying such topical remedies as may affect a cure by destroying the fungus, all tending to a caustic quality. He describes the method used by the surgeons, at Montpellier, who prepared a corrosive ointment, spread over very fine rags, wrapped it about a wax-candle, and thrust



thrusted it into the Urethra. They afterwards drew out the candle, and left the end of the rag hanging out of the penis. Others made a wax-candle very slender, but with a stiff wick, the end of which was medicated with escarotics, which was worn until the caruncle was consumed. Also rods of lead thrust into the passage as thick as it would suffer, which served to dilate it, and keep the ulcers from corrupting each other: These rods of lead were besmeared with quicksilver, and kept in day and night. Lastly epulotick-injections, for drying away any humidity that distilled from the penis. Wiseman, who was serjeant surgeon to King Charles the Second, treats very largely on the disease of the Urethra, and has been particularly attended to by most of the English authors, who have wrote since his time on the lues venerea. There is no reason to doubt but this man took a great deal of pains to improve the art of surgery in general; he was esteemed and imitated by his cotemporaries, and recommended to posterity as the best English chirurgical writer at that time, barbarous as he was. Unfortunately for him, he sets out wrong, and defines a virulent gonorrhœa to be an involuntary emission of seed, occasioned by  
venom



venom contracted from an unclean woman: I know, says he, with a cunning sort of assurance, "That Bartholinus hath made a gonorrhœa to be  
 "nothing else but an ulcer of the prostrate, which  
 "opinion is sufficiently confuted by Dr. Wharton,  
 "who gives him the insoluble objection of the  
 "tumour of the testicles, which happeneth always  
 "upon the untimely stopping of it." Then he throws in an old proverb, "By the pounding up of  
 "the water, it is easy to find which way current  
 "came." I own the last observation to be a digression, and foreign to my purpose; but I was struck with the absurdity of his theory, and could not help paying it the compliment he has done to Bartholinus's. One would have thought it might have been puzzling to this author to have devised a cause for the urethral obstructions, as he had at the first onset given a fallacious description of the virulent gonorrhœa; but his ingenuity in some measure makes attonement for his errors, and however wrong he was in the cause, his definition of the effect at least marks him as a man for resources. He ascribes the diseases of the Urethra to a caruncle and carnosity, and makes the latter to be a consequence from the neglect of the former. He says,

"Canuncles



“ Canuncles are a sort of loose flesh arising in the  
 “ Urethra, frequently in the time of a gonorrhœa,  
 “ by reason of an erosion made by that virulent and  
 “ acrid matter; but if (says he) at any early stage  
 “ the cure be neglected, some drops of urine, or in  
 “ coitû, the seed remaining amongst these caruncles  
 “ heateth the part, and increaseth their growth, and  
 “ not only renders them callous, but at length the  
 “ whole ductus, and then it is called a carnosity,  
 “ which straitening the passage, stops the virulent  
 “ matter in its motion, whereby it is forced back to  
 “ the feminals, in which case the testicles for the  
 “ most part do suffer.”

This great author describes with difficulty the  
 urethral obstructions, as if he really felt an imper-  
 fection in accounting for them; the observations  
 are related like a communication of what he is  
 rather doubtful of the propriety, than as those  
 that give an assurance of a doctrine, justifiable,  
 and warranted by reason: If he could not over-  
 come the obstructions, by means of a wax candle  
 and emollients, he conveyed caustics to the part,  
 by means of a canula: If after overcoming one  
 obstruction, another offered, and the canula could  
 not



not pass up to it, he made use of the leaden probe, in his own words, “ he anointed first, passed the “ probe up to the caruncle, and then by pressing “ on it, broke it off; you must expect, says he, “ a bleeding, and it is not done without pain, “ the Urethra being of exquisite sense; that pain “ is sometimes accompanied with rigor and fever: “ If a flux of a virulent matter be accompanying “ the stranguria, the last remedy is salivation.” The same author recites afterwards many cases, some of which terminated happily, though amongst them there were severities put in practice, which at this time would not altogether have been thought warrantable; particularly the case in his tenth observation, where his friend, Mr. Edward Mullins, and he dilated the Urethra, throughout the whole passage to the neck of the bladder, to no purpose, as the urine never afterwards passed per urethram, but flowed from a puncture, made previous to this general operation, in perinæo, close to the neck of the bladder. I shall not attempt to descant upon the theory and manner Mr. Wiseman treated the diseases of the Urethra; it is sufficient at such a date, as in the reign of Charles the second, that we have so exact a mode laid down



down by one who appears to have been in full practice, and whose merit, one would presume, had elevated him to a sphere where he profited from the beams of royal favour. It is a certain fact, as the art of surgery in general improves, the severities of it are softened ; and we hope, that a still less demand will be made for instruments, as it advances further to perfection. In all countries where the arts and sciences have arrived to a degree of excellence, the structure of them has been founded upon the candour of their ancient researchers ; they have been as much indebted to those who have related their miscarriages, in any sort of attempt to the improvement of knowledge, as where the success of others hath proved exemplary, by opening a path for the advancement of an art whereby it has with rapidity arrived to eminence. The man of genius not only makes an allowance for the defects of his ancestors, but turns them to his advantage, as the traveller, who is destined to a certain spot, consults with his map, in order, by a comparison of the different routs, to make choice of that which is the most pleasant, and gives him the readiest dispatch : Their errors stand as marks of caution to the in-



quirer, as the rocks in the chart do to the mariner, not to be followed, but avoided. I would wish to make an eternal distinction in criticism, betwixt the man that gives a history of plain truths, free of sinister views and deceptions, and him that endeavours to charm you into a persuasion, omits the inconveniencies attending his theory, and praises it not because praise should follow ; but by an imposition attaching a merit to it, in order that it may be more generally adopted, and to answer a purpose as mercenary as wicked.

That learned and great researcher into the human machine, Boerhaave, throughout his preface to the *Aphrodisiacus*, appears to be struck with astonishment at the hydra-headed symptoms of the lues venerea in general, but he paints his prognostics from no part more tragical than that of the consequences of obstructions in the Urethra. The abilities, greatness of ingenuity, and indefatigable attention of this truly famous physician want no panygyrist, his works are the best, they speak for themselves, his candour was above all interest, he pointed his shafts at every thing that was hurtful to the animal body, and if they were now and then glanced



glanced awry, we may truly say of him as the philosophers do of Des Cartes, that he was great even in his errors. He makes four species of gonorrhœa, of what we now-a-days would term one, only attended by aggravated symptoms of virulency, produced on the Urethra by time, neglect, bad management, &c. “ There is a fourth gonorrhœa, “ (says he) which differs in shape from the rest; for “ after the virulent matter has, by the passages “ already described, reached the prostratæ, it wastes “ their substance, and melts it down into a very “ plentiful mass of virulent pus. This disease “ sometimes takes its rise from other gonorrhœas, “ long continued, but chiefly from often repeated “ ones. It discovers itself by tumours upon the “ perinœum, frequently by a very troublesome “ ischuria, a plentiful discharge of sub-putrid pus, “ and a suppuration of those parts hardly to be “ stopped. A malignant incurable ulcer very “ often breaks out upon the perinœum; sometimes “ too the parts all around the situation of the “ prostrate are most miserably ulcerated, by which “ means the neighbouring parts are destroyed and “ become a very shocking spectacle. But one of “ the most common symptoms of this disease is,



" that frequently those miserable patients, all at  
 " once, and without any manifest cause, are seized  
 " with a suppression of urine; whence they are  
 " tortured with a great many painful and fruitless  
 " attempts to make water, while at the same time  
 " there is no admission for the catheter to relieve  
 " them that way. At last, after a long torment,  
 " some quantity of pus on a sudden makes its way  
 " out of the orifice of the Urethra; a little after  
 " which, the urine is discharged without difficulty,  
 " till the same mischief returns again. I have some-  
 " times seen this disease, and you cannot but be  
 " sensible what a hard matter it is to accomplish a  
 " cure. Here salivation has its place, and here all  
 " the remedies recommended against the fore-  
 " mentioned kinds of gonorrhœa must be very  
 " diligently applied."

The theory of the above learned author being  
 from the beginning an hypothesis of his own, we  
 shall gain but little improvement from his method  
 of cure; he supposed that the subcutaneous fatty  
 cells were the nidus of this disease, that the mem-  
 brana adiposa was distributed all over the body,  
 even to the privities, eyelids, &c. Therefore from



an opinion of this sort it is not to be wondered that he does not even hint at the use of bougies, or thinks of any consequence topical applications. His confidence was built on those remedies that would empty the adipose cells, and by evacuating the fat they contained radically extirpate the venereal virus. And therefore, however justly elegant and pathetick, he has described the symptoms of the urethral diseases, yet we cannot look up to him for a remedy. Let it then suffice that such a description of the disease from Boerhaave stands upon record as a difficulty for those of a future age to call forth all their attention, to deliberate on and remove. Dionis, a surgeon of the first eminence at Paris, in his demonstration of chirurgical operations, page 146, enters into a discussion of urethral obstructions, and seems to attribute all the cause to callous scars which straiten the passage of the urine, diminish the stream of it, and hinder the probe from passing up the canal. These scars, he says, are produced from one or more gonorrhœas, and their cure is performed by conducting a caustick to the diseased parts by means of a wax-candle, which will destroy the old collosity, remove the stricture, and give an opening for the wax-candle



candle to pursue its rout into the bladder. The obstruction being overcome, the fore is to be healed and a leaden probe continued until the passage becomes free and open. This famous author denies flatly the existence of a carnosity, and gives for a reason, that after many diligent observations, by opening bodies charged with being afflicted with this complaint, he had not met with one that really was so, nor had he met with any chirurgeon (worthy of credit) that ever affirmed to have seen one. I am sensible it could not have escaped the ingenuity of this great man, that it was very possible for a fungus to have existed in a living subject, which would not be discernible after death, had he been inclinable to have favoured the theory so common an observation as the different appearances of the same fungi before and after death on any part of the human body would not have been wanting to him. The truth of the matter seems to be, that the treatment of this disorder at that time, and since in Paris, has been in the hands of pretenders to nostrums, to which rotten part of the profession Dionis owed no good will, nay, long before his time, he tells you of Jean Baptist Loyseau, of Bourdeaux, who was called to Henry the Fourth, to

cure



cure him of a carnosity, that he dressed him, and accordingly did cure him, and was rewarded with the post of chirurgion to his Majesty. This story, says he, though very memorable, does not prove the existence of carnosities; it indeed discovers that Monsieur Loyseau acted the secret-monger and played the mountebank in publishing his performance without mentioning either the means or remedies which he used; and as he was silent in the essential part, says he, I shall take the whole to be apocryphal. Upon the whole I am of opinion that what Dionis has said on this subject has thrown neither light on the nature of the disease, or on the mode of cure; he contracts the cause to a simple callosity, and prescribes a remedy that I humbly conceive would rather aggravate than cure: It is to remove a scar brought on by the venereal virus, by substituting one from a caustick; I think the reader will agree with me, when I say that the cicatrix of a caustick will always be at least as contractile as that of a venereal ulcer. Therefore the only essential that seems to be wanting in this case is a species of bougie, capable of passing over and dilating the obstruction, which, according to a very ingenious author, will loose of its power to contract



contract in proportion as it is stretched or dilated. When I begin speaking of Mons. Daran, I endeavour in a more especial manner, to divest myself of all that partiality which in general prevails either in a criticism on the conduct of a friend, or the theory of an author, is too apt to cast a false glare over their actions or productions and to hurry him who pronounces upon them, into a stile of enthusiastick flattery, or illiberal reflections. Such an author can be of no good consequence to the public; be he a man of abilities, he misleads much to their prejudice; be he otherwise, he degrades himself below the aim of criticism and becomes worthless. Mons. Daran deserves praise and blame. Praise in having first formed the medicated bougie similar to what is now in use, blame in having professed to perform with it more than reason or truth will allow. I would wish to make all allowance for Mons. Daran's pompous diction and pretensions to infallibility, because the fashion of his country and the obstacles of quackery which are prevalent in France, require more forcible conviction amongst even the more rational part of them, than in England, where we are guided more by the laws of truth and reason, and  
 where



where the sensible part at least can be satisfied with the possession of a remedy that will serve one good turn, without tacking to it an unlimited excellence in a catalogue of different cases, different in their nature. Mons. Daran performs as many feats with his bougie as Breslaw would with his cups and balls, and all to the *wonderful astonishment* of those who look on him. And with a sense of feeling peculiar to himself, can determine with the point of a bougie the very nature and seat of a disease at the remotest part of the urethral canal, can effectually cure all ulcers and scirrhusities there by the *suppurative* power of a bougie, which bougie he confesses to be throughout uniformly compounded of the same materials. In all ages, there have been mysteries credited, when they could not be measured by reason, and this is an addition to the stock. I have tried Mons. Daran's bougies and those of Mr. Sharp, and know not to which to give the preference, so equal are they in their effect, and so deficient are both of them in overcoming an obstruction in the Urethra, on the first introduction. Yet as Mons. Daran was the first who well moulded a bougie into the shape now in use, it was undoubtedly an improve-



ment and worthy of reward. All surgeons will allow that Monf. Daran's or Mr. Sharp's bougies are preferable to the leaden probes which were formerly in use, and which have since been justly exploded. They allow that a piece of linen worked to a proper resistance, and at the same time proper pliability, and armed with a medicinal effect, is preferable to a metallick probe for the cure of urethral obstructions. This improvement is due to Monf. Daran, and though simple not the less valuable; it was an instrument in his hands that gave him the preference over all his cotemporaries, and so far he was justifiable in keeping the secret within his own breast; nor will he be arraigned for the profit that has been derived from his invention. But when a man publishes abroad not only the grossest absurdities, but impossibilities in the name of real facts, and in the same performance there is to be found (contradictory as it is) some new truths and those of great value, it becomes the candid critic to winnow the chaff from the corn, that the remaining stock, however small, may be more valuable and wholesome.

I can,



I can, at the same time, say that Mons. Daran has merit in improving the bougie, and profit from it, whilst I can accuse him of assertions that do him no honour or credit. He says that his bougie will act on a diseased Urethra, and not on a sound one, that it will produce a discharge from fungi or callosities in a diseased Urethra, when a delicate sound one will be insensible to its effect. He has published to this purpose : “ The operation of my  
 “ remedy is conformable to this, the loose fungous  
 “ flesh is by it melted down and suppurated, the  
 “ sound remaining untouched. Let it not be  
 “ imagined that I attribute an intelligent power to  
 “ it, if it acts on the diseased rather than on the  
 “ sound parts, it is because the first is of such a  
 “ nature as to be affected by the active particles of  
 “ my remedy, whereas the latter is guarded  
 “ against their action by the internal membrane of  
 “ the Urethra ; besides, these same active particles  
 “ stir up, and set in motion the virus, which gene-  
 “ rally remains clogged up and inactive in those  
 “ fungous swellings. There is no wonder then  
 “ that my remedy should act upon them without  
 “ having any effect on those which are in a sound  
 “ state. This is proved beyond contradiction by  
 “ an



“ an experiment which I will put in practice as  
 “ often as desired. I will introduce one of my  
 “ sounds into the Urethra of a healthy person, and  
 “ will leave it there a sufficient time for it to act on  
 “ the glandulous bodies of which it is composed.  
 “ I will then remove it and the keenest sight  
 “ shall not be able to perceive upon it the least  
 “ drop of foreign moisture. I will then imme-  
 “ diately pass the same sound into a diseased Urethra  
 “ and in less time than it had remained in the sound  
 “ one, it will be charged with a purulent matter,  
 “ furnished by the diseased part of the Urethra.”  
 In another place he says, “ It so far assists the  
 “ contrectile powers of the fibres, as by dissolving  
 “ and setting a float the hardened juices which are  
 “ confined in the callous edges of ulcers, it enables  
 “ them to clear themselves from them, but it does  
 “ not act as bracers do by strengthening and con-  
 “ tracting them, but by melting down the juices  
 “ imprisoned in the edges of the ulcers, or in the  
 “ fungous or callous excreffencies of the Urethra,  
 “ which, as I said before, arise upon the ulcers, and  
 “ form upon them a sort of crust, which is the  
 “ discharge of purulent matter.”

With



With regard to the tenderness and lenity of Monf. Daran's bougie towards a found Urethra and effect on a diseased one, I do aver that even one of wax passed up a found Urethra, and continued there for a small space of time, will be charged with an additional secretion, merely as an heterogeneous body, however mild, and will, if repeated, continue so to irritate the part as the more it be applied, the more will be that secretion, such will be the effect of any foreign substance passed up the urinal canal. I do not make this observation to decry the use of bougies, because this evil is very small in comparison to the good they do; but to convince Monf. Daran's advocates that in this instance he is palpably wrong. If it is worth while to unravel the other mysteries concealed in the above quotation, for all seems to be mystical, I will give my opinion upon them in a few words. That as Monf. Daran's bougie is so confessedly harmless, and as it "gradually melts down and sets afloat the hardened and confined juices in the callous edges of ulcers," it acts as all other lenient digestives; and hence we may account for the success of a mild digestive plaster in the shape of a bougie over the urethral obstructions. It acts

on



on a carnosity by compression rather than otherways, by reducing the fungus so that the membrane of the Urethra (or what supplies the loss of it) may heal over and thereby bind it down. As we see daily the instance in a sore on the surface of the body where there is a fungus, nothing will assist a cure more than pressure, and when once the artificial skin grows over, the sore is effectually healed. Notwithstanding the carnosity will often prove obstinate because the pressure may not be equal, or because some virulency may be remaining. It acts on the callous ulcer as a digestive plaster would on the surface of the body, and attention is only to be paid towards the effectually destroying the virus in order to perfect a cure. It acts on the contracted cicatrix merely from a counter-resistance as is ingeniously demonstrated by Mr. Sharp, in his observation on chirurgical operations. Thus will one bougie very happily answer different intentions upon the most rational suppositions: I say happily because it is not every man that is confessedly so adroit as Mons. Daran, and that when the obstruction is very far up in the Urethra can determine at the first or perhaps at all, which of the several diseases he may have to encounter. But what shall



I say to the scirrhusity of the prostrate gland; verumontanum, or the other glandular bodies? will the all-powerful bougie succeed here? the same bougie may assist, if it can be passed over the obstruction, but I believe the judicious practitioner will at the same time make use of a warm bath, or partial vapour of hot-water, he will apply a mercurial friction as near outwardly to the part as possible, and be confident at the same time that internal alteratives must be requisite to a cure, the bougie will only have a share in such a case; but Mons. Daran, if he practised this method or a similar one, has forborne to speak of it least it should lessen the consequence of the bougie. I am afraid that the judicious theorist will suspect with me upon the whole that Mons. Daran has risked his reputation by an endeavour to elevate his subject and highthen its consequence, that he has thereby intoxicated his senses, and as Horace expresses it, *tollens vacuum plus nimio gloria verticem*, has left him defensible by none.

I should not do a good ancient author justice if I was not to remind the reader that Col de Villars was the first who described the sort of bougie, which  
Mons.



Mons. Daran brought to a proper pliability and resistance; but as all improvements are still open to some imperfections, thus it stands with the bougies in present use, they are very deficient in perviating the obstructions. When first the patient applies for the care of a surgeon, if the obstruction be so very great that the urine cannot be permitted to pass but drop by drop, and that not at regular times, but continually as from a leaky vessel, and when upon the committing any intemperance a total suppression ensues, whatever method of treatment bids fairer to pass over these obstructions, and gives a free egress to the urine, and that almost immediately, I presume will be thought an improvement worthy the attention of the diseased, there being no complaint more painful, more acute, or more instantaneously dangerous. The evils that attend the bougies, when made small, are, that they have not sufficient force to make their way through the obstructions, that they immediately bend and become useless, being wanting of a proper elasticity. If they are compounded of materials that serve to stiffen them and give more resistance, they then become too brittle to be used at all with safety. This is the real situation in  
which



which the bougies of present use are found. I mean only when they are applied to overcome the first obstructions, and though to prove effectual they should immediately make way through the obstruction, yet sometimes they are weeks nay months in effecting it. With regard to the larger bougies, when once the obstruction is perviated, and one of them can pass with ease, those used in common, with the addition of Monf. Goulard's improvement, undoubtedly bid the fairest to confirm a cure. And few there are that will not be recovered of this grievous complaint, when the skill of the surgeon and the regularity of the patient go hand in hand.

Amongst all the English authors from the beginning of the venereal disease in Europe to the present hour, no one has made a clearer distinction of the separate diseases of the Urethra, and laid down a better plan for success in the removal of them than Mr. Sharp; with the temper and penetration of a man of genius, he carries his enquiries through all the several causes of obstructions, and gives them their separate definitions. The theory of Mr. Sharp, in his critical enquiries will be found



so perfectly to coincide with my own that it would be fruitless to say more of it, as far as relates to the causes of obstruction. I shall therefore proceed to consider the imperfection of the bougie, as it appears in his description on the first introduction of it only. Besides the inconvenience that I pointed out before of the small bougie being too weak for resistance in a pliable state, and too brittle in a more stiff one, I shall produce other objections to the primary use of it from a quotation of Mr. Sharp.

He says, “ There are a great many whose  
 “ disorder is so desperate as to render them unfit  
 “ for every other business than that of their cure.  
 “ I have had several of them under my care, who  
 “ wore the bougie almost the whole time, night  
 “ and day without intermission, as they withdrew  
 “ one, introducing another; and if it does not sti-  
 “ mulate too much by this constant application, it  
 “ is certainly a prudent step; for the more suppu-  
 “ ration is procured, and the longer the Urethra  
 “ is kept distended, the more likely it is that the  
 “ cure will be radical.”

The



The two general obstructions that hinder the passage of the bougie through the Urethra, being the carnosity and callous stricture, it appears hence necessary from the use of these bougies that they must bring the one or the other to a state of suppuration before they can perviate or get over them, and before the larger ones can gain admittance home to the neck of the bladder. Now I would wish to enforce to the candid enquirer that this suppuration which is brought on for the cure of a carnosity or stricture, is totally from a necessity that the bougie may pass home into the bladder, but not a requisite in the removal of either. The suppuration in this instance takes place, because the bougie cannot make its way without it, but that does not at all argue, that it should take place in order to effect a cure. Where there is a suppuration, there is great pain and confinement, and if a bougie can be so far conducive to an effectual cure without these inconveniencies the sole purpose of this little work will be answered.

After having thus given a short sketch of the ancient methods that were taken to cure the urethral obstructions brought on by the venereal



disease and continued them up to the present time, I shall proceed to an enquiry into the cause of an habitual stranguy, in which I shall not be found to vary much from Dr. Astruc, Mr. Sharp, and some others, whose works plainly evince that they are not wrote by the hand of prejudice, they moved in a more laudable and generous sphere, with a conscious pleasure of conveying to the public the ideas of true science and indefatigable attention. Passing over a stranguy that may be brought on by a stone in the bladder, or in the Urethra, or that which may be produced by an ulcer in the bladder, or on the neck of it, unconnected with venereal virulency, I shall proceed in my description of that from virulent obstructions. The strongest symptom of an habitual stranguy is a diminution of the stream of urine which makes its way through the penis, sometimes in a small single stream, but oftener in two, and sometimes in many scattered and confused streams, and sometimes drop by drop and that incontinently, the patient all the while straining unnaturally, tedious in the expulsion of his urine, often having a throbbing on the glans penis, and a frequent desire to make water from a stimulus brought on by over straining, which



which produces great uneasiness. Whenever a due regularity is exceeded either in diet, exercise, watching, venery, or what else, where the body is inflamed, or the passions are agitated, a total ischury, or suppression of the urine often ensues, accompanied by symptoms very painful, alarming, and sometimes fatal. The complaint is then become too serious and too acute for delay, recourse must immediately be had to bleeding in large quantities where the subject will bear it, fomentations, clysters, and above all the warm bath; it will be in vain to attempt the passage of the catheter, as the introduction of the smallest substance will be denied until a proper relaxation is brought on by the means above described. Purgatives ought to be used with great caution as they are apt to excite thirst, and to encrease the heat and stimulus on the part already in a state of inflammation. Diluents should not be dealt out with too much liberality in this complaint, as they will encrease the urinal secretion; the warm bath will amply supply their stead, without their ill consequence. A repetition of the above means generally operates successfully, but sometimes it is found ineffectual. When, at the expiration of three days,



days, or according to the indication of the symptoms, the use of these means have proved fruitless, and the patient continues in unremitting pain, delay will be dangerous. A puncture must be made into the bladder, and the urine drawn away, observing to keep the canula in the opening of the bladder made by the puncture, till such time as a passage is obtained per urethram, and the bladder has recovered its contractile power, which is often rendered paralytick by over distension. After having overcome the violence of the above symptoms, they are again and again liable to return as the patient breaks out into farther intemperance, whilst the urethral obstruction remains unobviated. The bars in the Urethra, which prevent the urine passing in a full stream, are distinguished into seven species. First, the caruncle or fungus, arising from a degenerated ulcer, where a part of the internal membrane of the Urethra is destroyed. Second, a callous stricture or hard contraction of the Urethra, from a former ulcer cicatrized. Third, callous ulcers ill digested, yielding various coloured discharges from any part of the Urethra, or excretory ducts of the prostate gland or seminal vesicles. Fourth, an enlargement of the verumontanum,

intro-



intruding too far into the Urethra. Fifth, an ulcer or scirrhusity of the prostate or vesiculæ feminales. Sixth, a spunginess of the same parts; and Seventh, ligamentary bands from the inosculation of ulcers in opposition to each other around the urethral canal. The caruncle is a spungy fleshy substance, intruding into the Urethra, whereby it hinders the free passage of urine capable of enlarging from any thing that may irritate and inflame it, produced from an ulcer in consequence of a gonorrhœa, as any other fungus on the external surface of the body. It appears in some subjects almost immediately after the gonorrhœal symptoms are over, and authors have affirmed that in others, months, nay years after a contracted gonorrhœa, the caruncle has been found to produce its first effect; but I am apt to conclude that in the latter case, it is more probable that the disease is a contracted Urethra, and not a fungus. The existence of a caruncle or fungus in the Urethra has been a bone for contention amongst the French surgeons, particularly Dionis, de la Faye, and some others, who could never discover the least trace of a caruncle in the Urethra after death, where the subjects had fallen victims to a venereal strangury; but



but their opponents weighed them down by truth and argument, and there are few now that deny the reality of a caruncle, however they differ in the definition of it. Monf. Goulard; in his very ingenious treatise on his favourite invention, the *Extractum Saturni*, does not deny the existence of a caruncle but defines it different from all other authors, that he appears to have given part of the same name to another disease; by a very metaphysical way of arguing he tells you, that the spongy substance of the Urethra is confined within its proper bounds as nature has placed it by means of the internal urethral membrane antagonizing it. This being the case in a state of health, when the internal urethral member becomes enfeebled at any certain point, there the spongy substance opposite to that point resists the fibres which give way, distend, lengthen, and are pushed forward into the cavity of the canal; from whence arises a little tumour that he calls a spongy carnosity. What gave rise to this supposition of Monf. Goulard was the difficulty he found in accounting for the existence of a fleshy substance in the Urethra where nothing like flesh in the natural situation of these parts is to be perceived. “*Car, en premier Lieu, le*

*mot*



*“ mot de carnosité, pris dans son etymologie,*  
*“ n’exprime autre chose qu’une excroissance charnue,*  
*“ ou une élévation formée par des chairs fongu-*  
*“ euses : or, personne a-t-il jamais démontré*  
*“ dans le canal de l’Uretere quelque partie charnue*  
*“ qui puisse donner naissance à ces sortes d’excroissances*  
*“ et de fongosités ? Il est donc certain que les carnosités*  
*“ de l’Uretere, en prenant la chose à la rigueur des*  
*“ termes, comme il est important de le pratiquer en*  
*“ médecine et en chirurgie, n’existent que dans l’imagi-*  
*“ nation.”* To dissent from so ingenious and valu-  
 able an author as Monsr. Goulard, without giving  
 my reasons, would be very unfair, and productive  
 of no good, therefore I will put in my objections  
 to his theory of the existence of a carnosity but in  
 the imagination. And here I am sorry to find  
 that the above author has lost sight of a principle in  
 surgery as invariable as the rising of the sun or any  
 other common course of nature. We all know in  
 a state of health that a bone is covered with a mem-  
 brane, where no flesh intrudes, and where there  
 appears nothing of the property of flesh, but when  
 once this bone becomes diseased and an exfoliation  
 takes place, the first appearances that constantly  
 offer, are granulations on the part. Or, when the



throat be cut, the cartilage divided never unites, but the chasm is often filled up with granulations of flesh. *Monf. Goulard* must allow that the natural appearance of the conjunctive coat of the eye is as void of flesh as the Urethra; but when this membrane is attacked with a venereal opthalmia in particular, does it not produce a quantity of fungus? If there be no fleshy substance naturally in the Urethra, he must allow that there are blood-vessels; and granting that, whenever the part has been diseased the fungus may follow.

The callous stricture obtains, when there has been one or more large ulcers in the Urethra, which are entirely healed, yielding no discharge, sometimes accompanied with a scirrhus of the adjacent parts. These ulcers having healed without the intervention of any internal application to keep the diseased part of the Urethra from contracting, lessen the diameter of it. This sort of stricture is deprived of the secretion the rest of the Urethra naturally enjoys; as the patient advances in age the callosity thickens, and, aided by the natural disposition of a cicatrix, formed from a malignant ulcer, will without some preventive means



means tend to the closing up the canal. It is the opinion of the learned Mr. Sharp, that a cicatrix on any part of the body acquires the disposition to contract in proportion to the neglect of a counter resistance. As when the palm of the hand be burnt, if the fingers during the cure are not extended by means of a pasteboard or some such proper substance, the contracting power of the cicatrix will inevitably clinch the fingers.

Callous ulcers ill digested and yielding various coloured discharges from any part of the Urethra, or excretory ducts of the prostrate gland, or seminal vesicles; these ulcers remain after a gonorrhœa, where it has been neglected or ill cured, almost always attended with a hardness around them, which is easily to be felt by the fingers externally, the discharge from them is more or less, and kindly or malignant, in proportion to the habit of the patient or manner of his living. The farther they are seated up the Urethra, the more liable they are to bring on an ischury, upon any intemperance whatever. Sometimes the discharge from them has all the marks of a virulent recent gonorrhœa, both as to colour and quantity, the ulcers then



being in a state of inflammation, the ardor urinæ will be also a symptom and often accompanied with blood. The most powerful distinction betwixt the aggravated appearances of a callous ulcer and recent gonorrhœa, that I can suggest is, that the inflammatory symptoms of the former will give way much sooner than the latter, but the discharge from the ulcers will scarce ever cease, until some applicable remedy comes into contact with them. It has been disputed, whether the discharge from these ulcers carry with it any venereal infection, many surgeons are inclined to think it does not, but the very doubt should induce me to caution a patient from depending on the innocence of the discharge, at least I will venture to affirm that although the generality of those ulcers may not be infectious, yet some are, which will not yield to topical applications without the aid of internal alteratives.

The enlargement of the verumontanum is also a cause of the urethral obstruction. This part, like the rest of the Urethra, is frequently inflamed and ulcerated, or eroded in a virulent gonorrhœa, and when the inflammation is not totally reduced and  
the



the ulcer effectually deterged, it will degenerate into a warty fungus or callous substance, which will obstruct the urine in proportion to the quantity of either, and the manner of life the patient adopts.

Whenever in a virulent gonorrhœa an intense ardor urinæ is felt near the anus, it is beyond a doubt a token of the disease having reached the excretory ducts of the prostate gland and vesiculæ seminales. When if those parts have been frequently injured by repeated gonorrhœas, or if in the attempt to a cure, they have been improperly treated, the disease will make a destructive progress, hence fistulous and callous ulcers and scirrhoties both of the gland and vesiculæ seminales. The seat of the disease being so remote, there becomes a difficulty of applying effectual remedies, and it often happens that a fistula in ano joins in the event. In such a situation, they cannot fail of being a certain cause of obstructing the urine.

Or, where venereal ulcers have eroded and destroyed any of the substance of the prostate or parts adjacent, a luxuriant fungus will often sprout  
up



up there, and in such quantity as to be also a cause of obstructing the urine.

Lastly, Mr. Sharp has discovered by dissections, that where ulcers have been nearly in opposition to each other in the Urethra, they have inosculated and produced bands which crossed from the one to the other, and are consequently a cause of obstructing the urine.

Thus is the current of urine lessened and obstructed by one of the causes above described; the same may be said also of the semen. Therefore neither of them can pass through the Urethra, retaining their free and proper course, but are obstructed in proportion to the obstacles they meet in it. The diameter of the urinal passage being lessened, a greater force becomes requisite for the expulsion of the urine; hence the patient will strain and increase the effort according to the resistance the urine finds in the Urethra: The stream of urine, pressing hard against the obstruction in the Urethra, will be divided in its passage through it. These divisions intersect each other, and preserving their separate courses, pass out in two or  
more



more, and sometimes in scattered confused streams, and those weak and dripping, from a well known principle in physics, that any fluid passing from a narrow canal into a wider, will move proportionably flow to the narrowness of the canal from whence it flowed; hence the urine no longer describes that arch, when it is discharged, as it formerly did, where the passage was uniformly equal. Whenever from intemperance or any other cause, the urine becomes heated, it will excite a pain in the obstructed part of the Urethra, from whence a frequent or perpetual dysuria is found to be a concomitant to obstructions. The sensation of pain being produced from the nerves, and those of the Urethra, being so intimately connected with the nerves of the bladder, a constriction of the neck of the bladder will be brought on by sympathy; the bladder will empty itself, not in a continued stream and at distant periods, but will be frequently soliciting a discharge: the urine will be forced away, with much straining, in very small quantities, and in very quick successions; the neck of the bladder, from the irritation, will become exquisitely sensible, and yield great pain with every drop of water. If a dysuria is brought on  
by



by inflamed ulcers of the verumontanum, or prostrate, or verficulæ feminales, the pus flowing from these ulcers will generally follow the expulsion of the urine, and that in encreased quantities, and thinner than in common; but if the obstruction is caused from caruncles or scirrhoties, no other discharge will follow, but mucus from the Urethra and neck of the bladder.

The ultimate evils attending the several obstructions in the Urethra commonly appear after the patient has for some time discovered a diminution of his stream of urine; therefore it is no wonder, that he is often found dilatory in taking any step towards obtaining relief; he seldom resigns himself to the care of his surgeon, as long as he continues free of any complaint that subjects him to danger. When he has been once snatched from the imminent symptoms of an ischury, he is always glad to embrace the opportunity for undergoing a radical cure. I shall now proceed to lay down a method for effecting this, as the ischury will always threaten a return upon every excess that may be afterwards committed, or even from any accidental cause, as long as the obstruction in the Urethra is suffered to

to



to remain, and here I feel myself particularly interested from a certain conviction of the rectitude of the measure I shall adopt, that it overweighs with me all the argements in favour of the bougies in present use, so far as they are made the instrument of overcoming the obstruction in the first stage of a cure. Those in the practice of surgery as well as those who have submitted to the use of a bougie know, that the first attempts of passing it beyond the obstruction will prove ever impossible. They also know that this passage is obtained by repeatedly introducing fresh bougies up to the part of the Urethra where the obstruction is, and there confining them by some sort of contrivance, that their pressure against the obstruction may suppurate it and melt it down; and it is with submission that I presume no surgeon, tender of his reputation, would be hardy enough to apply a bougie that was solely to act by suppuration, as it appears to me an utter impossibility, that a bougie uniformly compounded of suppurative materials can remain in the Urethra without doing as much violence to the sound part of it, as to the diseased. The consequence of which would be more distressing than if the disease had been left to its natural event.

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Without



Without having recourse to physical argument, I will speak to the experience and reason of every individual, who knows that no part of the human body is more susceptible, none more irritable. It is that susceptibility of the Urethra that yields such titulation in its natural state, and so much pain when irritated by any foreign or accidental cause.

From hence I would wish charitably to conclude that the bougies which are termed suppurative, only bring about that effect by their pressure on the obstruction, by so far impeding the circulation in the diseased part, as to induce it to slough away. It must be allowed that in a series of time, these means will prevail, and a cure will be effected, but it must be allowed also that it will be tediously brought about, and as it will be made to appear that this suppuration is an unnecessary act, so far as it is applicable to a cure, so must it be accompanied with pain both injudicious and wanton. As I before observed of the bougies in present use, when they are made small in order to pass over the obstruction so as to act upon it, by pressing down the sides of it, they are both wanting in elasticity and resistance: In elasticity as immediately when  
they



they are passed home to the obstruction they break and become useless ; in resistance, from their seldom success whenever an attempt is made to pass them. They stop where it is only necessary for them to begin, for did they but once overcome the obstruction, that pressure would turn to the proper account and answer all the purposes that human wisdom would wish. Mr. Sharp allows that the cure of a caruncle is often effected by pressure only, and that suppuration seldom takes place, where the bougie only passes to the obstruction, and not beyond it. He conceives also that the callous cicatrix loses of its contractile power, by being kept upon the stretch.

If the body be in a good state of health, free of the venereal taint, a bougie of the most simple sort will deterge and heal an ulcer in the Urethra, when brought into contact with it, as will diachylon plaster on any part of the body where there is no malignant cause to prevent it. As to the incrustations upon ulcers, which Mons. Daran treats of, in a part disposed so much to humidity and continually washed by urine, uninfluenced by air, I believe these seldom obtain. Thus far it appears that the



suppurative power of the bougie, as well as the necessity of it is, or ought to be always out of the question; and that when an encreased discharge follows a suppurative bougie, it is in consequence of the irritation it brings on all the urethral membrane, and of the pressure of it against the obstruction. In order to obviate these unnecessary effects my wish is, when first I go about a cure, to pass up the Urethra the smallest catgut so far medicated as to do no mischief by an asperity of the point of it. This seldom or never fails gaining a passage home to the bladder, when necessary means have been previously taken to prepare the patient by temperance in eating, drinking, and exercise, and by a use of the warm bath. Granting that the urine is only discharged drop by drop, the catgut by being medicated, and by the precautions above laid down, will prove successful. And although a cure is still to be effected, yet upon drawing the first of these bougies from the Urethra, the urine will come away almost in the natural stream, and every alarming and dangerous symptom will be hereafter dismissed, another is immediately introduced without pain or difficulty; by the humidity of the Urethra the catgut becomes pliant,

so



so that the progress of cure is not retarded, or are the parts the least incommoded, whether by erections of the penis in the night, or by moderate exercises indulged in the day. Other properties of the medicated-catgut bougie are, that from the elasticity of it, it is neither too weak to resist, or does it loose of its power by bending on an attempt to introduce it. In quality, it is simple and innocent, and possessed of the power of swelling when moistened as the medicated sponge is, without any sensible effect or ill consequence whatever; it brings away no other discharge, than what the natural secretion affords, and dilates the obstructions without pain and effectually. Neither is it found to irritate the urethral membrane or neck of the bladder, so as to bring on those solicitations of urine the other bougies do on their first introduction. Upon withdrawing one of these bougies, which will be when the patient wants to urine, another is passed of a degree larger, and the size is continually increased, until a free choice offers of introducing any other species of bougie of what size and of what property soever. This may be effected by diligent perseverance in the course of a few days, and at the end of that time, without inflammation

or



or suppuration, the grand obstacles will be surmounted and the way will be paved for confirming a solid cure.

When once an ischury is got over, it rarely happens that a patient can be in a worse state, than in that of the urine coming away drop by drop: A fistulous opening might have been made through some part of the perinœum, which I leave to be treated as laid down by others that have wrote on the same complaint. As I would wish to advance nothing but facts, I am, upon that principle, at liberty to declare that be the obstruction in any part of the Urethra, so that the urine is only discharged in the smallest proportion, the medicated-catgut has never failed overcoming it, and that almost immediately. Monf. le Dran recommends the use of the catgut bougie in the beginning of a cure, and gives it the preference over all other methods. I cannot think how his practice, in this instance came to be neglected; unless it was because its simplicity brought it into disgrace, it not being enveloped with any thing dark or mysterious: Like the dog and the shadow, the surgeons plunged themselves into doubts in search after Monf. Daran's secret,  
of



of imaginary value, and left a possession Mons. le Dran had laid down for them. I will here furnish the reader with an answer to a case given in for the opinion of Mons. le Dran. “ A man of fifty years  
 “ old, having supped in company, drank a little  
 “ more than ordinary, is attacked in the night  
 “ with a suppression of urine, and immediately has  
 “ resource to you: Note, that he had a clap in his  
 “ youth, in the cure of which, he made use of  
 “ drying injections. He has been cured a long  
 “ while; nevertheless, he has perceived, that ever  
 “ since that time the stream of urine was somewhat  
 “ smaller than before. What is to be done?”

Answer, “ As this new distemper is probably  
 “ occasioned by a phlogosis, or inflammation of  
 “ the neck of the bladder, the patient should im-  
 “ mediately have the catheter introduced, that the  
 “ bladder may not lose its power of contraction,  
 “ by the filling and distension of it. Soon after  
 “ he should be bled twice or thrice, at some distant  
 “ hours, to take off the swelling at the neck of  
 “ the bladder: But according to the account of the  
 “ patient’s manner of making water, previous to  
 “ this new complaint, it is possible that the catheter  
 “ cannot be passed far into the Urethra, as pro-  
 “ bably



“ bably it may become narrower at the bulb, or  
 “ the neck ; or possibly the prostrate being swelled,  
 “ and perhaps inflamed, may form an obstacle to  
 “ the introduction of the catheter into the bladder.  
 “ On this supposition, the first thing to be done,  
 “ while endeavours are used to abate the inflam-  
 “ mation, must be, if possible, to make a passage  
 “ for the catheter, by enlarging the canal, by the  
 “ use of bougies capable of dilating it. For this  
 “ purpose, those made of catgut seem to be most  
 “ proper, because, though very small, they will  
 “ not soften in the canal by the heat of the part, as  
 “ those do which are made of taffeta or linen. They  
 “ will likewise swell with the moisture, which the  
 “ others will not do, and by this means, encreasing  
 “ their thickness, will dilate the passage without  
 “ violence or uneasiness to the patient ; in such a case  
 “ as this, it is sometimes a long while before the  
 “ bougie can be passed as far as the neck of the blad-  
 “ der ; consequently if it is made of waxed linen or  
 “ taffeta, it will be heated and softened so that it will  
 “ bend, and not be stiff enough to open the passage  
 “ to the neck of the bladder, but the catgut ones  
 “ are a long time before they grow soft.” Monf.  
 le Dran has favoured us with four cases more  
 and



and all with the strongest recommendations of the above means; neither does he think any other sort of bougie necessary even to the confirmation of a cure. But as I would not be seen to strip the coat of all its lace, I shall be content with having shewed the preference and utility of the medicated catgut bougie in first overcoming the obstruction, and shall now proceed with the method for effecting a cure. Upon withdrawing a medicated catgut of a large degree, a bougie will be permitted to pass with the greatest ease, and with the supposition that the cause of obstruction be a caruncle only, nothing more remains than to prevent that again from protruding in the Urethra so as to bring on a return of the dysury. To do this I would recommend the use of a stiff bougie, capable of resistance, and compounded of the most simple materials; to which I would add a requisite quantity of Mons. Goulard's extract; the proportion of which is about half an ounce in a dozen bougies. As the expectation of a cure only depends upon a pressure on the caruncle, which in conjunction with a medicine possessed of the desiccative property of the *Extractum Saturni*, will so far collapse the vessels



and wither the substance of the caruncle as to be in effect equal to its extirpation; and I cannot help thinking that Mons. Goulard himself has been mistaken in the effect of his extract, as he attributes its success to a suppurative power and not to a ficcative one; which of these two properties, preparations of lead, in all their various forms, essentially enjoy, I believe few people conversant in chymistry will hesitate to determine. If there be a discharge of pus from ulcers, whether fistulous or not, in the Urethra, together with a diminution of the stream of urine, there will be generally scirrhusites felt along the under part of the penis and perinæum. When these tumors are suffered to remain, it will be in vain to expect a radical cure, whether the matter issuing from them be infectious or not, they must be dissolved before either the discharge of pus will cease, or the obstruction will be effectually removed. Whilst by means of the medicated catgut bougie, the Urethra is kept properly dilated, the patient should sit over a steam of hot water once a day, for half an hour, and during that time anoint the perinæum where the scirrhus tumors are to be felt, with a small quantity of the unguentum cæruleum  
 fortius,



fortius, and for his better security, he should for some time continue in the use of such mercurial alteratives, and in such proportion as will neither bring on a spitting or purging; and I believe it will be invariably found that these obstructions by the above means will be reduced and the discharge from the ulcers cease without the pain, the mischief, or confinement from the suppurative bougie. The catgut alone in this case will suffice, as by the reduction of the scirrhus tumors the ulcer becomes kindly, and the cause of discharge of pus and the obstruction ceases. When a diminution of the stream of urine is brought on by a callous cicatrix, if there be no hardness felt externally from a tumour accompanying it, nothing more is requisite than the above treatment for the cure of a caruncle, as the whole will consist in opposing the inclination to contract. And it may be said of the ligamentary bands that cross the Urethra, and that are produced from ulcers inosculating with each other, that the bougie composed of the extract of lead, will be the very best application that can be suggested for wasting and shrinking that substance, so as to remove all inconvenience from it. From



hence I presume to conclude, that suppuration brought on by bougies is not necessary for a cure, or can it be made good by any theory however fashionable it has been to suppose so. It is a work done by the hand of severity when put into practice, where a more rational and humane method will succeed. I must not omit observing that, I think the public owe a good deal to Mons. Goulard for his excellent preparation of the extractum saturni; amongst the rest of its qualities, a dilution of it with water, I have repeatedly found successful in obstinate gleets that had triumphed over every other endeavour.

I cannot withhold from the reader a case or two on the effect of the foregoing manner of treating the urethral obstructions, more I presume would not be supernumerary, although in this treatise every part is left open to the naked eye of the candid enquirer, nothing is disguised, nothing is concealed, it is, and ought not to be any farther calculated to invite, than by what it demonstrates. (I wish I could say as much for one, whose theory as far as he has made it known, has been an object of my consideration.)



sideration.) Amongst more that have fallen to my care during my short practice, had I found any opinion I had formed to be ill grounded, I would not have been wanting so far in duty not to correct it. For the present let these two suffice, and as far as my reason directs me, I can say with Ovid, "*Nos duo turba sumus.*" A gentleman who got an infectious gonorrhœa three years ago, and had immediately made application to one of the faculty, never from that time was free of a discharge of a little quantity of pus from the penis, which would be sometimes more and sometimes less as he launched out into irregularities, or adhered to temperance. He perceived his stream of urine considerably to lessen, to come from him forked and irregular, and had not altogether a voluntary power over it. At last, whenever from any particular occasion he made too free, a total suppression would ensue. In one of these paroxysms, I first saw him, for which I was obliged to bleed him immoderately, and direct him to the warm bath, which relieved him, but the suppression of his urine returned with every excess. He became alarmed on both sides, on the danger of his situation; if he should be  
from



from town, where perhaps he could not conveniently have the necessary help upon so emergent an occasion, and on the bad effects such severe evacuations made use of during the suppression would bring on his constitution. Thinking his case then too serious to be neglected, he desired I would pursue every method radically to relieve him. I began with the application of the bougies in common use, and found by the introduction of one of them, that the obstruction was within half an inch of the neck of the bladder. I made several efforts at distant periods to pass the smallest, those of a middle size, and the largest over the obstruction; I availed myself of the advantage whilst he was in the warm bath, and immediately upon his coming out of it, to no purpose. I then left the bougies, as I had been taught, to work their own way, by keeping them as tight as I could to the obstruction. This was continued for near three months without the least progress. The gentleman was too much engaged in business to give up any time through the course of the day. At last he began to sicken at the means I had hitherto taken, and wished for some other. He then returned to the warm bath, for some repeated times, and upon the very first attempt



attempt a medicated small catgut passed into the bladder. The unguentum cæruleum was applied externally as near to the seat of the obstruction as could be judged ; he visited the warm bath twice or three times a week, and continued in the use of the medicated catgut, gradually increasing the size, about two months, which was all that was done to perfect the cure. It is eight months ago, he continues to urine in a full stream, and is as free from any urethral complaint, as if he had not known any.

A gentleman who eight years ago received an infectious gonorrhœa just upon the brink of his making a voyage, so far neglected himself as ever since to be troubled with a most obstinate discharge, and that in large quantities as from a recent virulent affair, and since from what I could collect from his recapitulation, he has been twice or thrice injured in the same manner. From the first his stream of urine began to lessen, and he has gradually found an increased difficulty in the expulsion of it. As often as he arrived in England he put himself under the care of some surgeon, and at first generally succeeded in passing the bougies, but from a natural inattention



tion he never prosecuted any means for a perfect recovery. For the last two years he has in vain attempted the introduction of the bougie, it was always with the most unnatural efforts and strainings I ever saw, that he could make his water. Upon his application to me, I remonstrated on the danger of his situation; that so corpulent a man, who fed very high, would with all the exertions of skill run a great risk of his life, if he should be attacked with an inflammation so as to bring on a suppression of his urine, and more so whilst on the water, that there his fate would be inevitable. He went into the warm bath repeatedly, and the unguentum cæruleum was applied externally along the penis and perinæum, he was bled also. The smallest catgut found a passage into the bladder on the first introduction; there proved to be three obstructions, one a little way up the Urethra, the others at the distance of about an inch and a half from each other farther on. Upon his withdrawing the first he made his water with more happiness than he had for two years; a larger was immediately introduced and the size graduated. Within four days the stream was natural, and he could himself pass



pass a bougie of any size. His hour for departure was come. He was furnished with such bougies as I before described to perfect the cure, and also with the medicated catguts in case, from his omission, he should be obliged to have recourse to them again; he also was desired to continue in the use of the unguentum, to sit over hot water, and took with him some mercurial alteratives, as almost the whole length of the Urethra was thickened and hardened.

*F I N I S.*



