

Extract of a letter from a medical practitioner in Edinburgh, to a brother doctor in London [on Andrew Duncan, Senior, as golfer and archer, with an account of the Ludi Apollinares Edinenses, 1823].

Contributors

Ludi Apollinares Edinenses.

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6

*EXTRACT of a LETTER from a Medical
Practitioner in Edinburgh, to a Brother
Doctor in London.*

.....ON Wednesday the 6th of August 1823, at the Commemoration of the Ludi Apollinares of the ancient Romans, which are annually celebrated on the Links of Leith, by the social Sons of Medicine, of Music, and of Mirth, one of the most remarkable tilts, at the Scottish Game of Golf, which has occurred for many years, excited no inconsiderable admiration among numerous spectators.

Dr ANDREW DUNCAN *senior*, Father of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, now



in the Seventy-ninth year of his age, appeared on the Links, as Champion for the ancient City of St Andrew's; and GILBERT INNES, Esq. of Stow, Deputy-Governor of the Royal Bank of Scotland, not many years younger than Dr DUNCAN, appeared as Champion for the City of Edinburgh. The former of these Champions had for his coadjutor WALTER COOK, Esq. Writer to the Signet, a native of St Andrew's; and the latter was aided by JOHN TAYLOR, Esq. of the Exchequer, a native of Edinburgh. These two Squires have the reputation of being, at present, two of the best Golfers in Scotland.

This contest, as will readily be supposed, by those acquainted with the personal character of the combatants, was carried on with all the fire of youth, the strength of manhood, and the wisdom of old age. After a keen match, the parties came off perfectly equal. It was, therefore, agreed, that, *Deo volente*, the same contest should be renewed at the celebration of the Ludi Apollinares in 1824, when the Gymnasiarchus, if alive, will have reached his Eightieth year.

Dr DUNCAN has now occasionally amused himself at the game of Golf for more than seventy years; and, from this long experience, he has often recommended it to the rising generation, as being one of the most healthful of rural amusements, from affording to a sufficient, but not to an excessive degree, bodily action, mental relaxation, and exposure to free air. The game of Golf has also a peculiar advantage over many other rural diversions. After strength fails, excellence can still be preserved by skill: And with some old men, the pleasure derived from it seems not to be diminished by age.

Golfing, however, is not the only gymnastic exercise for which Dr DUNCAN has been distinguished. More than fifty years ago, on the 13th of July 1771, he was enlisted a private of the Royal Company of Archers, his Majesty's Body Guard for Scotland. At different times he has gained the most highly esteemed prizes contested for by the Company, particularly the King's Plate in 1779,—a prize at Rovers, and the Pagoda Medal in 1820,—a Butt prize.

9;

Of him it may justly be said, in the words suggested by his amiable friend, the Honourable HENRY ERSKINE, which are engraved on a print published some years ago :

“ *ANDREAS DUNCAN, natus 17^m Octobris 1744, Medicus et Regis et Regentis Britanniarum, Ludorum Apollinarium Edinensium Gymnasiarchus 1820.*

“ *Nemo studiosius negotio operam dedit. Nemo elegantius negotiorum intervalla otio occupavit.*”