

A critical enquiry into the ancient and modern manner of treating the diseases of the urethra. With an improved method of cure / [Jesse Foot].

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Foot.

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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,

One of the Company of Surgeons in LONDON, and privileged
Practitioner from the College of St. PETERSBURGH.

A NEW EDITION, with additional CASES.

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P R E F A C E.

I THINK myself obliged to the Public for the confidence and encouragement they have bestowed on me, since I made them a tender of my services in the former edition of my critical enquiry into the nature and cure of Urethral Complaints, by which I am flattered, that a steady and diligent perseverance to any particular object in my profession will meet with a due return; and they judge wisely who have said, that to arrive at a perfect knowledge of any single branch in science, is of more use to society than a general smattering in the whole: not that I wish the profession should be subdivided; but I assert, that it is commendable in any one, where he finds a defect and obscurity in a part of any one branch, there to employ his

whole force of attention, and to supply the deficiency by minute application and observation: this will be a means of increasing the power and importance of the whole. Surgery has undergone many revolutions; but notwithstanding the vast stride to perfection that has been made in it within these fifty years, there are many instances where the professor can only be a compassionate spectator of an incurable case, his knowledge but serves him to draw the melancholy conclusion, that so far he can go, but no farther. Here is the inroad by which ignorant pretenders creep into a community; they make their attack upon the minds of the incurables, the credulous, and the desponding, and like leeches never quit their hold, until they have drained the constitution with the purse. It is astonishing to me, how men in their senses can apply to such; have they a greater

greater claim to science or literature who have studied neither?—is there more security in applying to a foreigner that we know not of, than to one whose education we may be informed of?—whose connections we may learn?—Is it likely that an adventurer of no fortune will deal out his services cheaper than one surrounded by his family and friends, and that has every obligation to be honest? From whence arises this prevailing quackery?—this flock of adventurers? Is it because a regular educated man, graduated in his profession through all its extensive and expensive stages, fears to stand forth lest he be ranked in the same class with those I have been describing. I could dwell longer upon this evil, because I have seen its effect; yet some of these are countenanced by magistrates and editors.

With regard to the antiquity of the venereal disease in this country I am persuaded

suaded to believe, that it is to be traced as far back as there are vellum manuscripts treating of phyfic to be produced; but as it is a matter of rather ingenious enquiry than useful, I shall not here enter into the requisite proofs for this my opinion, but refer the minute researcher to two letters concerning the antiquity of the venereal disease, by Mr. William Becket, Surgeon, F. R. S. to Dr. William Wagstaffe, and by him communicated to the Royal Society: he will find there, that the authorities of John Arden and Thomas Gascoigne are too strong for any incredulity to overturn; the latter of whom was Chancellor of Oxford in the year 1430. Any quotation from these two valuable letters would be destroying a masterly composition; they may be found by turning to N^o 357 and N^o 365, in the Philosophical Transactions.

A
CRITICAL ENQUIRY
INTO THE
ANCIENT AND MODERN MANNER
OF TREATING THE DISEASES OF THE
URETHRA.

THE diseases of the Urethra have been, since the introduction of the Gonorrhœa into Europe, productive of such alarming consequences to the patients, and brought on them such scenes of misery and distress, as the sufferer alone is equal to describe. Many of the ancients exerted their endeavours to remove the dreadful symptoms attending a suppression of urine, but unfortunately the remedies they laid down carried a terror

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with them equal to the disease. The torture of a caustic blindly applied up the urinal canal, the hæmorrhages brought on by rudely piercing the 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 removed that
 mysterious

mysterious veil that at present obscures the application of the bougie. It is one thing to glide it up a 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 lodgment 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 origiuated as well from the bad treatment on
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the one side as from the other. In a relaxed habit, violent purgings, bleeding, and other evacuations, will not, in my judgment, 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 re-

* From time and experience I am led to a conviction, that the only solid and rational mode of curing a Clap is by injection; and it is no argument with me, that because ignorance and quackery may do mischief by their injections, that injections are improper. No man, I trust, who hath the least claim to the character of a rational being will pretend to assert, that because he was hurt by injections by one, that they should not be used by any; who condemns medicines in general, because an individual hath been poisoned by arsenic?

mains

mains a discharge of pus, or 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 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, chordee, 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

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 up late at nights, and repeating his converse with women, be they sound or diseased.

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

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 the frænum, I have often seen inflame and come to suppuration, discharging itself externally by two orifices on each side of the frænum. 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 spongy 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 spongy 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 spongy substance of the Urethra, near the curvature, which the canal describes

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 prostratae imply a plurality of glands, though only one in reality, of a shape like a chesnut, situated between the bulbous part of the Urethra and bladder, having its basis towards the bladder, 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 prostrate, 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 prostrate; 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 Leonicens 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

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 fordities, 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 time, while the urinary passage remains obstructed, all attempts made by diuretics to promote the expulsion of urine are very dangerous. If injections 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,

* Vide Armstrong's Synopsis, page 397.

will not be found to vary much from the present usage, however distant that period was, and however unexperienced the practitioner 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 prostrate, 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 Guaiacum, 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

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 effect a cure by destroying the fungus, all tending to a caustic quality. He describes the method used by the surgeons at Montpelier, who prepared a corrosive ointment, spread over very fine rags, wrapped it about a wax-candle, and thrust 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 escharotics, 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, epulotic 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

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 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 prostate, 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 the 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

given a fallacious description of the virulent gonorrhœa; but his ingenuity in some measure makes atonement 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, “ Caruncles 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 imperfection in accounting for them; the observations

vations 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 overcome 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 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

purpose, as the urine never afterwards passed per urethram, but flowed from a puncture, made previous to this general operation in perinaeo, 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 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

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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 inquirer, 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, who omits the inconveniences 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.

thra. The abilities, greatness of ingenuity, and indefatigable attention of this truly famous physician want no panegyrist, 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 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 perinæum, 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 peri-

“ næum ; sometimes too the parts all round the
 “ situation of the prostratæ are most miserably
 “ ulcerated, by which means the neighbouring
 “ parts are destroyed and become a very shock-
 “ ing spectacle. But one of the most common
 “ symptoms of this disease is, that frequently
 “ those miserable patients, all at once, and with-
 “ out any manifest cause, are seized with a sup-
 “ pression of urine ; whence they are tortured
 “ with a great many painful and fruitless at-
 “ tempts 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 sometimes 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 forementioned 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 me-
 thod

thod of cure ; he supposed that the subcutaneous fatty cells were the nidus of this disease, that the *membrana adiposa* was distributed all over the body, even to the privities, eye-lids, &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 pathetic 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

ducting a caustic to the diseased parts by means of a wax-candle, which will destroy the old callosity, remove the stricture, and give an opening for the wax-candle to pursue its rout into the bladder. The obstruction being overcome, the sore 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 surgeon (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 ;

will; nay, long before his time, he tells you of Jean Baptist Loyseau of Bourdeaux, who was called to Henry the Fourth, to 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 caustic; I think the reader will agree with me, when I say that the cicatrix of a caustic 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
obstruc-

obstruction, which, according to a very ingenious author, will lose of its power to 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, as it 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 enthusiastic 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

of truth and reason, and 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. Monf. Daran performs as many feats with his bougie as Bressaw 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 scirrhosities 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 Monf. 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 Monf. Daran was the first who well moulded a bougie into the shape now in use, it was undoubtedly an improvement 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 metallic 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 at the same time say, that Monf. 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
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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 ac-
 “ tion by the internal membrane of the Urethra;
 “ besides, these same active particles stir up and
 “ set in motion the virus, which generally re-
 “ mains clogged up and inactive in those fun-
 “ gous 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 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 contractile powers
 “ of the fibres, as by dissolving and setting afloat
 “ 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 excrescencies of the Ure-
 “ thra, 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 regard to the tenderness and lenity of
 Mons. Daran's bougie towards a sound Urethra
 and effect on a diseased one, I do aver that even
 one of wax passed up a sound Urethra, and con-
 tinued 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 plaister in the shape of a bougie over the urethral obstructions. It acts on a carnosity by compression rather than otherwise, 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 fore 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 fore is effectually

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 plaister 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 surgical 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 prostate 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

alteratives must be requisite to a cure, the bougie will only have a share in such a case: but Monf. Daran, if he practised this method or a similar one, has forborne to speak of it, lest it should lessen the consequence of the bougie. I am afraid that the judicious theorist will suspect with me upon the whole, that Monf. Daran has risked his reputation by an endeavour to elevate his subject and heighten its consequence, that he has thereby intoxicated his senses, and as Horace expresses it, *tollens vacuum plus nimis 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 Monf. 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

sion

sion enfues, whatever method of treatment bids fairer to pass over these obstructions, and give a free egress to the urine, and that almost immediately, I presume will be thought an improvement worth 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 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,

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 obstruction, 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

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“ every

“ 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
 “ stimulate too much by this constant appli-
 “ cation, it is certainly a prudent step; for the
 “ more suppuration is procured, and the longer
 “ the Urethra is kept distended, the more likely
 “ it is that the cure will be radical.”

The too 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 en-
 quirer, 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 re-
 moval of either. The suppuration in this in-
 stance takes place, because the bougie cannot
 make its way without it; but that does not at all
 argue,

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 strangury, 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 strangury 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 to that from virulent obstructions. The strongest symptom of an habitual strangury is a diminution of the stream of

uring 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 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
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of inflammation. Diluents should not be dealt out with too much liberality in this complaint, as they will increase 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, 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 paralytic 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,

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 prostrate gland or seminal vesicles. Fourth, an enlargement of the verumontanum, intruding too far into the Urethra. Fifth, an ulcer or scirrhosity of the prostrate or vesiculæ feminales. Sixth, a sponginess 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 spongy 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

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 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 so 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 membrane 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

a spongy carnosity. What gave rise to this supposition of Mons. 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. “ *Câr, en premier lieu, le*
“ mot de carnosité, pris dans son etymologie, n’exprime
“ autre chose qu’une excroissance charnue, ou une éle-
“ vation formée par des chairs fongueuses : or, per-
“ sonne a-t-il jamais démontré dans le canal de l’Ure-
“ tre quelque partie charnue qui puisse donner nais-
“ sance à ces sortes d’excroissances et de fongosités?
“ Il est donc certain que les carnosités de l’Ure-
“ tre 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’imagination.” To dissent from so ingenious and valuable an author as Mons. 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 membrane, where no flesh intrudes, and where there

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 ophthalmia 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, 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 prostate 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

times 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 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 feminales. 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 feminales. 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

sprout 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, and sometimes in scattered, confused streams, and those weak and dripping,

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 solliciting 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 inflamed ulcers of the verumontanum, or prostrate, or vesiculæ feminales, the pus flowing from the ulcers will generally follow

follow the expulsion of the urine, and that in increased 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 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 arguments in favour
of

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. 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

ceptibility 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 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 over-

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come 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 plaister 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 increased discharge follows a suppurative bougie, it is in consequence of the irritation it brings on all the urethral membrane,

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 that the progress of cure is 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 nei-

ther too weak to resist, or does it lose 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 sollicitations of urine the other bougies do on their first introduction. Upon withdrawing one of these bougies, which will be when the patient wants to urinate, 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 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

a fistulous opening might have been made through some part of the perinæum, 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 imaginary value, and left a possession *Monf. 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 *Monf. 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, tha the
 “ had

“ 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 per-
 “ ceived, that ever since that time the stream of
 “ urine was somewhat smaller than before. What
 “ is to be done?” Answer, “ As this new dis-
 “ temper is probably occasioned by a phlogosis,
 “ or inflammation of the neck of the bladder,
 “ the patient should immediately have the cathe-
 “ ter introduced, that the bladder may not lose
 “ its power of contraction, by the filling and dis-
 “ tension 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 can-
 “ not be passed far into the Urethra, as probably
 “ it may become narrower at the bulb, or the
 “ neck; or possibly the prostate 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 inflammation, must be, if possible, to make
 “ a passage for the catheter, by enlarging the
 “ canal by the use of bougies capable of dilating
 “ it.

“ 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, increasing their thick-
 “ nefs, 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
 “ bladder; 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.” Mons. le Dran has favoured
 us with four cases more, and all with the strong-
 est 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 pre-
 ference and utility of the medicated catgut bou-
 gie in first overcoming the obstruction, and shall
 now proceed with a method for effecting a cure.
 Upon withdrawing a medicated catgut of a large
 degree,

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

stream of urine, there will be generally scirrhoties 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 cœruleum 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 tumor 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 gleet that had triumphed over every other endeavour.

C A S E

C A S E I.

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 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 a medicated small catgut passed into the bladder. The unguentum coeruleum was applied externally as near to the seat of 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

done to perfect the cure. It is eight months ago : he continues to urinate in a full stream, and is as free from any urethral complaint, as if he had not known any.

C A S E II.

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 the first generally succeeded in passing the bougies ; but from a natural inattention 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

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 cœruleum 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 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.

C A S E

C A S E III.

A waiter at a coffee-house applied to me for an obstruction in the Urethra, that had grown to a dangerous height, and not from any negligence of himself, but because he implicitly relied on an apothecary in his neighbourhood, who had given him medicines by the mouth only for a series of time. I found him in a piteous state; the passage was so narrow that he only discharged his urine drop by drop, not at any particular time, but constantly as he walked about. He found his constitution very much impaired by this suppression, and it was the harder upon him, in that he was obliged to sit up late at night, and could not at the hazard of his place lie by in order to expedite his cure. Thus situated he applied to me; I passed a small catgut, after endeavouring in vain to pass the smallest of the common constructed bougies, and persevered in their use until I had gained a desirable opening, when I perfected a cure in the course of three months by the daily use of bougies moulded into the same form of those in general, but compounded of materials which I have experienced, by the multitude of opportunities that have
arisen

arisen to me within these three years, to be the safest and best calculated, not only to remove the obstructions, but to prevent their return.

C A S E IV.

A remarkable corpulent man applied to me for an obstruction that had been coming on for many years, and as he had felt the dreadful effects of two severe fits of the ischury, he was anxious of removing the imminent danger that every day threatened his life; he had been under a surgeon in this town, famed for the use and application of the common bougies, who found himself foiled for the very same reason I have given in the foregoing pages, there not being a possibility of passing a bougie of that construction through an orifice so small and deep situated as was this I now speak of. I lowered his general habit by the warm bath, bleeding, &c. and made a successful attempt; but upon withdrawing the first catgut bougie I found myself disappointed in the second, and it was not until three days after I could succeed again, owing, I conjectured, to the irritation of the parts; I took care to pass the third immediately after

after withdrawing the second: and it must be observed, that in this period of the cure, there should be as little intermediate time as possible betwixt the withdrawing one bougie and passing the other. By this perseverance and increasing their size, I succeeded to my astonishment, and it was but a few days before I could pass one of my common constructed bougies, which perfected a cure in the course of three months. From observation I have experienced, that there is some difficulty in passing through the narrowest obstructions, even this catgut bougie and its success depend in a great measure upon practice, which all know is the only guide for facilitating difficulties; *Monf. le Dran* had convinced me that it could be done, therefore it remained my duty and interest to endeavour to do it, and my success has shewn that I have not failed. And I farther observe, that I never make use of this species of bougie where my others will do: I try the smallest of the other sort first, and if after every endeavour I do not succeed, it is then that I have recourse to the catgut sort.

C A S E V.

A gentleman went ten years ago to be under the care of Mons. Daran to Paris, for an obstruction, and after remaining there six weeks came away so much relieved as to think himself perfectly recovered. Within these last three years he perceived a gradual diminution of his stream of urine, and at last it became so small as to reduce him to the necessity of applying to me; upon trial I found I could not pass my common bougie. I then prepared him in the warm bath, and passed one of my catgut bougies. I attended him very diligently for two days, when I had gained so considerable an opening as to encourage him in persevering in their use. He afterwards passed them himself, and preferred them to any other sort, because he could walk and lie more at his ease with them. He continued them for two months, and half a year afterwards renewed their use, and as far as I know is perfectly recovered. I must observe, that when an obstruction is of long standing, and becomes habitual (as there is a greater rigidity in the constitution of a person advanced in years, the parts being less moist and less liable to undergo any alteration) the patient should compound with
the

the removal of the dangerous part of the symptoms, and when he finds a passage hath been gained so as to admit of a large bougie, he should constantly be watchful that there be no return of the complaint. To obviate this with the least trouble to himself, and to remove all anxiety, he may pass one of my common large bougies once a week, and let it remain an hour or two.

C A S E VI.

A gentleman from the East Indies applied to me, after having used other bougies, for an obstruction he had very nigh to the neck of the bladder, accompanied by a hardness externally to be felt along the perinæum: he told me that he had been in constant use of bougies for two years, but did not find that the passage was at all enlarged notwithstanding, if he forebore the wearing of them for any time. I convinced him that he could not expect a perfect cure whilst the schirrosity on the perinæum remained. He submitted to the application of the vapour-bath to the part, which, together with the use of a small quantity of unguent. cœrul. fort. and my common bougies, the schirrhous was dissolved, and the obstruction removed in the course of six weeks.

C A S E VII.

A field officer in America upon his embarkation applied to me on account of an obstruction, through which he could not pass a common bougie, notwithstanding he had been attended by an eminent surgeon in this metropolis; he introduced my catgut bougies himself, and continued in the use of them after his arrival at America, and when he had exhausted his first stock, he wrote home for more, declaring that the success of those had exceeded his expectation, and that he did not doubt but that he should be effectually cured, when time served him for the constant application of others.

C A S E VIII.

A gentleman of one of the universities applied to me for an obstruction brought on very rapidly after a first gonorrhœa; this was a very uncommon circumstance in a subject twenty-one years of age, and led me to enquire into the manner of his having been treated. I found that he had been very liberally purged, and that the running had continued on him for upwards of six months;

it was with the greatest difficulty I could pass the smallest of my common bougies ; but I at length succeeded, and by a continual repetition of them for two months, the discharge ceased, and the obstruction was removed.

C A S E IX.

A servant of a nobleman applied to me for a complaint in the Urethra that he had laboured under for six years, and had, on account of the secrecy that he made of his case, undergone many difficulties and much pain, especially when he irritated the parts by riding post, not only in his attendance on his master through the continent, but in his journeys from town to country. He through diffidence would not apply to his master's surgeon, but put himself under the care of a foreign quack, who had loaded him with violent forcing medicines, and had as much endangered his constitution as he had drained his pocket. From a robust stout fellow he was reduced to a hypochondriac stalking object; his complaint yielded to my common bougies, and in the course of three months he could pass the largest of them,

C A S E X.

I shall subjoin one case of a venereal caries ; it was of a naval officer, who was attacked at sea with pains in his bones, and a caries succeeded to it of the upper jaw, his upper fore teeth were loose, the palate ulcerated ; he came home, after having most liberally used mercurials in all forms, full of pains, the caries spreading on the upper jaw, his bones of his legs and arms enlarged, distracted with pain at night, offensive breath, and emaciated beyond conception.—I advised him milk diet, and farfa decoction ; a drachm of the cœruleum only was rubbed on his legs weekly, and the free use of the vapour bath, his pains gradually abated, his flesh and spirits recovered, the caries of the jaw exfoliated, and the enlarged bones returned to a sound state. I have still the satisfaction to find that he continues as healthy as if nothing had ever happened to him.

O B S E R V A T I O N.

It appeared to me from this case, and it also hath before been instanced to my conviction, that when there is a mixture in the habit of
 scurvy

scurvy with virus (venereal) how difficult the extirpation of it is, and what ravage the disease commits, and that the effect of mercurials when the blood is broken down, its texture that constitutes health is dissolved, and the whole system emaciated either by scurvy, hard drinking, or care, is very inefficacious; and until the wonted consistence of the system is restored by vapour baths, air, and milk diet, no attempt to extirpate the virus will succeed, or will the caries on bones exfoliate, enlargement of bones dissolve, or the nocturnal pains produced through them be easily composed.

C A S E XI.

On the Translation of Venereal Virus from the Urethra to the Eye.

A gentleman of Scotland was recommended to me for a virulent gonorrhœa; the first time I saw him he complained also of his eye being inflamed, which was the second day after the disease had discovered itself.---I bled him, gave him the necessary remedies for the gonorrhœa, and called on him the next day, when I found his eye more inflamed, and the inflammation of the
Urethra

Urethra lessened; I bled him again, fomented and poulticed the eye.—The next day his pain of the eye was increased, he complained of a violent throbbing, it discharged a purulent matter, and the tunica conjunctiva was in a higher state of inflammation than I ever saw any before: I applied leeches to his temples, blisters behind the ears, injected milk and water, renewed poultices, &c. the inflammation of the Urethra by this time was perfectly abated, and little discharge appeared from it.—The morning following I found his pain had not the least abated; upon raising the eye-lid there was one continued fleshy appearance, which protruded so as to leave the eye half shut.—The same remedies were used, such as repeated bleeding, and his medicines were nitre powders, and the mercurius calcinatus with opium.—The discharge was prodigious; the inflammation not yielding to any of the general revulsive means, I continued the fomentation and poultice, with the addition of Goulard's extract. The symptoms the next day not being the least abated, I solicited a consultation; the surgeon met me the next day, and we proposed touching the carnosus fungus of the conjunctiva with a fine powder of the mercur. calcin. mixed with pomatum by a camel brush; this increased the pain
so

so much that we directly desisted and returned to the former method a day or two longer, when the pain gradually abated, the carnous appearance declined. We then gave him bark, which succeeded very well, but the issue was, that the cornea was thickened, the crySTALLINE from inflammation became opaque, and he lost his eye. The cause of this unfortunate case was from his having previously a weak eye he washed it with his urine, and thus conveyed the infection.

OBSERVATION.

I found no assistance in this case from any author but Astruc; Warner does not mention it in his treatise on the eyes. Astruc is the only one who does, and he advises a total dissection away of the fleshy conjunctiva; how this is to be done whilst the patient is in such a situation I know not, but I fear the remedy would be worse than the disease. A venereal ophthalmia is common, but this is the only gonorrhœa of the eye that I have ever seen, or do I know any one who ever saw another.

F I N I S.



