CRITICAL ANALYSIS
OF THE
RECENT PUBLICATIONS
ON THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF
PHYSIC, SURGERY, & MEDICAL PHILOSOPHY.

Observations on Pulmonary Consumption, or an Essay on the Lichen Islandicus, considered both as an Aliment and a Medicine in that Disorder, illustrated by a coloured Engraving. By J. B. Regnault, late Physician to the Military Hospitals and Forces of France, &c. London, 1802, 8vo. pp. 82.

All substances taken into the human stomach, may be considered as food, medicine, poison, or inert matters; and these denominations depend more on the quantities or doses, than on the qualities of the substances themselves. We do not, however, wish to extend this position so far, as to intimate that we believe arsenic may be so dosed as to become a nutritious food, or water gruel a deadly poison. What we wish to state, is, that in the science of medicine, quality has been more attended to than it merited, and quantity almost entirely overlooked. This accusation could not, with justice, be applied to physicians of the two or three preceding centuries, for they seldom prescribed a draught or potion of fewer than six or eight ounces, and often double that quantity. But modern refinement, luxury, and quackery, have very generally induced a belief, that diseases may be cured by doses of grains or ounces, by syrups or watering places, by fleecy hose or tepid baths. Nay, nothing is more commonly said by squeamish patients, than that they cannot take medicine, or submit to regimen; and yet they expect to be cured.

In these times, when the very mention of rhubarb, opium, or mercury to a patient is sufficient to prevent their being taken, nothing could have been more injurious than the publishing the composition of all the principal formulae in English.

Every practitioner of experience must have observed the great difference that arises between the treatment of a patient who has been bred to the profession, and one who never heard the name of a medicine before his present illness: he must have observed and lamented the cause of this difference. The late justly-eminent Dr. Warren, in his last illness, told Sir George Baker, who attended him, that medicine was of no use to him. Now this particular observation of a very great physician, is often made by persons totally ignorant of medical science, who yet imagine they are capable of judging
judging of the effects of medicines on their own constitutions. If a patient has confidence in his physician, he should yield him implicit obedience; if not, he should send for another. Nothing can be more unjust than to make a medical practitioner responsible for the event of a disease of which he had not the entire direction of the treatment; and yet nothing is more common than this species of injustice. We have been induced to offer these remarks from a belief that those who ought to be the patrons and guardians of medical science, have fallen into the same error as Jack did, who tore the lace off his coat with such violence that he tore the coat to pieces.

To return to the work before us; the object of which is to recommend a remedy, or rather a medicine and regimen which had never been exhibited in the most advantageous manner, for the cure of Phthisis, by the Author's predecessors.

Dr. R. lays no claim to the discovery of a panacea, or even a specific for all possible cases of consumption. What he appears to wish, is to call the attention of the public to the proper and mode of doing and administering a substance which had long been acknowledged as a valuable remedy in affections of the lungs. We have often employed it ourselves with decided advantage in those complaints, in consequence of the recommendation of Dr. Crichton; but we now believe, in doses too small to produce its full effect. Without seeking for explanations in the various acrimonies of the humoral pathology, which is now become obsolete, we are compelled by experience to confess, that spices, spirits, strong beer, and even animal food, always aggravate the cough in common catarrhs, as well as consumption; and that mucilaginous substances, on the contrary, allay or diminish it. The truth is, that various fluids, taken into the stomachs of adults, pass through the lastrauls into the circulation, without undergoing that complete animalization which has been supposed. How, otherwise, could an infant at the breast be intoxicated, or purged, by what the mother takes? infinences of which occur daily. If then it be admitted, that the blood itself may be materially changed, in its power of irritating and inflaming the lungs, by diet and medicine; and that the irritation produced in the lungs, by the blood, is the cause of the suppuration of the tubercules, or the means of perpetuating the ulceration by the insensibility of the cough; it will not be difficult to conceive, that such a plan as Dr. R. recommends will generally be found beneficial. It is not, however, to theoretical reasoning that he seems desirous of appealing, though a few observations of that kind appear in several parts of his pamphlet, but to facts, and the experience of ten years in different parts of Europe.

As it is an object of importance to avoid the impositions or obviate the ignorance of herb-gatherers, Dr. R. begins with giving the synonyms and characters of the lichen from the most eminent botanists, with a full description of the plant, illustrated by a coloured plate, and the places where it flourishes; he then mentions the opinions of a considerable number of physicians on the continent,
as the chief object of Dr. R's pamphlet is to recommend a new and improved manner of employing this lichen, he is minute in his directions for its purification and preparation. His general practice is to procure an extract or jelly, by boiling $\frac{3}{7}$ vj of the lichen, which has been washed clean in boiling water, in $\frac{3}{7}$ vj of spring water for an hour or more, and then evaporating the strained decoction, with the addition of $\frac{3}{7}$ vj of refined sugar, to the consistence of a syrup or jelly. This he gives either alone, or mixed with milk, syrups, &c. to the quantity of three or four ounces or more daily, which constitutes the medicinal exhibition. He next considers the virtues of this moss, when used as an article of diet, which is a very common practice in Iceland; and we find by our papers, that a Russian has lately obtained a patent for making bread of it. Dr. R. seems, in the cure of consumption, to prefer the use of it with chocolate to any other form of food. He concludes this part of his work with a few rules respecting the diet and regimen of consumptive patients; and then commences the history of about twenty cases, selected so as to introduce as much variety as possible. The cases appear to us fair, and several of them seem sufficiently desperate to give the plan a full trial; but all terminate favourably. We should have been better pleased if a few unsuccessful ones had been added, or we had been told that he had never met with a case which did not yield to his method of treatment. The credit notwithstanding of his method of cure will not rest merely on cases contained in his work; other practitioners will soon have recourse to a remedy so simple, so safe, and so pleasant. To give it, however, a fair trial, it should be exhibited precisely according to his directions, both as to medicine, diet, and regimen; and there can be no doubt that it will often be tried in cases which are become incurable, and where it will fail of success. But if it saves only one third of those who perish annually by phthisis, Dr. R. will merit the warmest gratitude of the public. If his hopes should be confirmed by the experience of others, there can be no doubt that the lichen will become a considerable article of commerce; and we shall be regularly supplied from Iceland itself, where the best kind is produced in great abundance.

The work concludes with a review of several of the means and remedies which have been proposed by others for the cure of consumption, with the author's objections to them. Indeed, their inefficacy alone would be a sufficient objection, if they were merely innocent; but several of them appear to be injurious in phthisis.

We join in the author's request to practitioners, that they will communicate the result of their experience, founded upon a candid, fair, and accurate trial of the plan proposed; convinced that it never can injure any patient, and believing that it will always afford relief, even when it cannot effect a cure.
A Compendium of the Veterinary Art; containing an accurate Description of all the Diseases to which the Horse is liable, their Symptoms and Treatment; the Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse’s Foot; Observations on the Principles and Practice of Shoeing; on Feeding and Exercise, the Stables, &c. illustrated by Plates; by James White, Veterinary Surgeon to his Majesty’s First Royal Dragoons. London. Badcock. 1802.

Though the health of man constitutes the principal object of our Journal, we do not, on that account, propose to exclude the anatomy, physiology, or treatment, when in a state of disease of other animals. Nay, so intimately is the health of human beings connected with that of other animals, that we may assert the perfection of the former to be unattainable without the latter. Dr. Jenner has observed, how much the domestication of animals, for the purposes of luxury, may have contributed to increase the catalogue of human diseases; and we may observe, that the same domestication daily contributes, in an eminent degree, to the prevention or cure of diseases which it cannot be accused of producing.

The noble animal, the health of which is the object of the work before us, is now become a necessary as well as a luxury; and we are much pleased to see the care of his health superintended by regularly educated practitioners.

M. W. appears to have taken a very comprehensive and proper view of his subject; and we have no doubt that his book, together with the labours of his cotemporaries, will soon supercede, and confign to oblivion, the miserable jargon of the last century. The plates appear to be well executed, and well calculated to illustrate the subject intended.

Cuvier’s Lectures on Comparative Anatomy.

[Concluded from our last Number.]

Having concluded his account of the organs of motion, the author proceeds, in the second volume, to the highly interesting subject of the organs of sense, a subject which exhibits, perhaps of all others, the most curious, complicated, and recondite researches of the anatomist.

Among the organs of sense, the head, of course, comes the first under consideration; which is composed of the cranium or bony case, for the protection of the brain; and the face, in which are lodged the organs of sight, smell, and taste.

The study of this noble organ becomes peculiarly interesting, when, to the consideration of the structure and uses of its several parts, is added, that of the proportional scale of intellect indicated by the relative magnitude and distribution of the organs in which we have every reason to believe this quality resides. This study, which to man is so flattering, and which forms the most rational basis for the more sober part of physiognomy, appears to have engaged much of the attention of the learned author of this valuable work, who thus expresses his opinion on this subject. After relating
relating some of the observed facts, "It is not astonishing, therefore, that the form of the head, and the proportions of the two parts which compose it, are indications of the faculties of animals, of their instinct, of their docility, and, in a word, of all their sensitive being. This circumstance renders the study of these proportions highly important to the naturalist."

If we might any where expect the ingenious author to give the reins to his imagination, and quit the path of simple description which he had hitherto pursued, it would be here, in following up this curious and interesting subject; but this is not the case, facts are still his principal and almost his only object, and the reader, who is in search of facts, will give the author high credit for his forbearance.

He introduces, in a few words, the measurements of the different parts of the head that have been made by Camper, Blumenbach, and other anatomists, who have peculiarly attended to Cranioscopy, which is founded on the following principles:

The two organs which occupy the greatest portion of the face, are those of smell and taste, and in proportion as these are developed, the proportional magnitude of the face, with respect to the cranium, is increased; and vice versa. An extensive cranium and a small face, therefore, indicate a large brain with little development of the organs of taste and smell, while the opposite proportions point out a brain of small volume, with very perfect organs of taste and smelling.

The nature of each animal depends, in a great measure, on the relative energy of each of its functions, and it may be said to be influenced and governed by those sensations which are the most powerful.

The brain is the common centre of the nerves, where all perceptions terminate, and it is the instrument in which the mind combines those perceptions, compares them, reflects, and thinks. Animals appear to enjoy the thinking faculty more perfectly, in proportion as the mass of the medullary substance, which forms their brain, surpasses that which constitutes the remainder of their nervous system, that is to say, in proportion as the central organ of the senses exceeds their external organs.

This proportion lies peculiarly convenient for examination in the cranium and face, as the former contains the whole of the brain, and the latter the organs of the senses, especially those of smell and taste, which act with the greatest force on animals, as they govern the two most commanding passions of hunger and love.

Man has, of all animals, the largest cranium and the smallest face, that is to say, as we have before laid down, the central organ of the senses exceeds the external organs in greater proportion than in other animals.

One of the means adopted by Camper, in order to show this relative proportion, and which is very simple though not always sufficient, is to measure the angle which the facial line makes with the basilar line, or the basis of the cranium. The facial line is sup
posed to pass along the edge of the incisor teeth, and the most prominent part of the forehead. The basilar line of the cranium, is that which bisects longitudinally a plane passing through the external meatus auditoreii on each side, and the inferior edge of the anterior aperture of the nostrils. Hence it follows, that the more the cranium is enlarged, the more will the forehead project forward, and the facial line will form a larger angle with the basilar.

In man, this angle is much larger than in the other mammalia, and the ancients appeared to have laid much stress on the height of the facial line as a characteristic of a noble nature, since, in the representations of gods and heroes, they usually made it quite perpendicular, (that is, at an angle of 90 degrees with the basilar line) or even projecting forward, which is out of all human proportion.

But shall we venture to launch out so far on this hypothesis as to infer that the proportional scale of intellect in man is regulated (ceteris paribus) by the height of the facial angle? In different races of the human species we find even more difference in this angle than exists between man and brutes. There are, likewise, two important circumstances which affect the angle of the facial line; age is one of them, for an infant will be born with this line at 90°; and, in the same individual, old age will often sink it to 75°; the depth of the frontal sinuses is the other; for, as the author observes, in the sarcophaga, or carnivorous animals, in the hog, the elephant, and some others, the extent of the frontal sinuses swell the cranium in front, and consequently elevate the facial line more than the proportion of the brain would require. The following are some of the measurements of this angle given by Camper: European infant, 90°; European adult, 8°; aged European, 75°; adult negro, 70°; young orang-outang, 67°; Sajapou monkey, 65°; horse, 23°; hare, 30°; &c. &c.

However it may flatter the European physiologist to trace the gradual fall of the facial line from himself, through the negro, to the ape, the monkey, the dog, and to the rest of the brute creation, we ought surely to receive with some caution, a system, which (independently of numerous anomalies and exceptions that might be pointed out) places the human native of Africa on so near a level with the brute.

An accurate description of the osteology of the head in man and different animals is subjoined, which properly prepares the reader for the full and comprehensive view of the nervous system, the brain, and the organs of sense, which occupy the greater part of the volume. A remarkably clear and elegant sketch of the general organization of the nervous system, introduces the anatomical description of its several members. In this, the author adduces several arguments to prove the apparent homogeneity of the parts of the nervous system, and hence he infers that the appropriation of particular nerves to the acquirement of determined sensations, is more to be attributed to the accessory circumstances of blood vessels, and the
the like, which render these nerves fit for these individual offices, than to any original difference in their structure.

Hence it would follow, that it is only on account of the situation, and what may be termed the external relations of the optic nerve, that it is peculiarly devoted to the sense of seeing, and so of the rest. It is inconsistent with the author's plan, however, to pursue these ideas at large, and he soon quits them to return to the strictly anatomical part of this interesting subject.

After describing the general distribution of the nerves in man, and other animals, the author devotes separate chapters to the five senses, as they are usually termed, which he gives in the order of the eye, the ear, the touch, the smell, and the taste. The description of the organs appropriated to each of these functions, is very compleat and comprehensive; to give more than the anatomy of parts would require distinct treatises on optics, phonics, &c. entirely foreign from the purpose of the work; but occasional digressions into these subjects are introduced, which shew a familiar acquaintance with the laws of these branches of natural philosophy. The anatomy of the organ of hearing is treated of more in detail, than those of the other senses, on account of the vast variety of its parts, the intricacy of their distribution, and the deep researches of some of the most eminent anatomists to which it has given rise.

Here terminates the second volume of this highly valuable, but as yet unfinished work. Though incomplete, it is not, however, imperfect, or hereby rendered in any degree unfit for present use; the anatomical descriptions are full yet concise, perfectly clear and intelligible (as far as can be done without drawings or reference to particular specimens) but not tedious and verbose; and as these volumes supply, in so admirable a manner, the want which has long been severely felt, of a general view of Comparative Anatomy, every anatomist and student of anatomy will feel the highest obligations to the illustrious author, and earnestly wish for a completion of his labours.

The translation is uniformly good, and appears to be executed with perfect fidelity. The translator has had the advantage of the assistance and inspection of Mr. Macartney, who, in the preface or advertisement, has given the reader entire security in all the essential points, by acknowledging himself "responsible for the fidelity of the translation as far as respects the science." He has likewise taken considerable pains to adopt the new French nomenclature of anatomy, employed by the author, to the Latin, and (where it could be done) to the English terms in common use, a task which considerably increases its value to the English reader.

As we hope soon to see a completion of this excellent work by the learned and eminent author, we trust that when it appears it will speedily be given in an English dress; and we shall beg leave to suggest, that besides a copious index, some comparative view of the anatomical nomenclature of the respective countries will then be peculiarly acceptable.
A Treatise on the Morbid Affections of the Knee Joint; by James Russell, F. R. S. E. Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and one of the Surgeons to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Edinburgh, 1802, 8vo. p. 242.

Diseases of the knee joint are justly looked upon as some of the most formidable and threatening maladies that come under the care of the surgeon; their diagnosis is often extremely difficult; the event of a large proportion of them is frequently of the most calamitous nature, and from their intimate connection with scrophula, the frequency of their occurrence is unfortunately greater in this island than in most other parts of Europe.

The author of the present work, whose extensive practice must have afforded him ample opportunity of consulting personal experience, has here given a concise view of several of the most serious diseases of the knee-joint, with the mode of treatment which he considers as the most successful; and the reader will not be disappointed in expecting here the same perspicuity and accuracy which distinguishes the Essay on Necrosis.

The first chapter treats of superficial injuries on this part, which, the author observes, on account of the delicacy of the part, are often followed by the most dangerous consequences. Extensive surfaces of tendon and capular ligament, seldom, if ever, granulate kindly, and even a slight injury in such parts is always liable to proceed to extensive inflammation, sloughing, and a long train of local and constitutional evils.

The second chapter notices the injuries upon the burse, belonging to the broad tendon which connects the knee with the patella. As this is a part very liable to accidental blows, to injury from kneeling, and the like, it often is the seat of tense diffused fluctuating swellings, which may be either the effect of suppuration, or of simple accumulation of the mucous fluid of the burse. These should be distinguished, as often the practice is entirely different.

A description of the appearance of tumours, containing blood, is given in the third chapter; which tumours are of more rare occurrence, are often very indolent in their progress, and when converted into an open fore, prove exceedingly tedious, painful, and troublesome of cure.

Having described those kinds of tumours which might sometimes be mistaken for the white swelling, the author, in the fourth chapter, gives a detail of the symptoms, progress, and varieties of this dreadful complaint. After relating these, he notices separately the ravages which it occasions in the different parts in which it is seated, such as, morbid effusion on the capular ligaments, gradual wasting of the cartilages, and erosion of the articulating bones.

The nature of white swelling he decidedly refers to scrophula.

A rare anomaly of diseased joint (which is illustrated by a plate) is given in the seventh chapter. In such cases, the joint becomes enlarged into a firm swelling of considerable size and irregular shape. The progress of the disease is extremely rapid, but the constitutional symptoms of hectic do not prevail with great severity till
till the swelling is at its height. On examination, after death, or amputation, the head of the tibia is either extremely enlarged and rendered quite spongy or honey-combed in its texture, or it is almost wholly consumed. In either case, the bone is very fragile, and even the head of the fibula suffers, which is not the case in common white swelling. At the same time, the soft parts become gelatinous and of a scirrhouos like appearance. The author considers it as by far the most hopeless case that can occur. If left to itself, it proves fatal by the constitutional disease, and if the severe measure of amputation is referred to, the patient (in all the cafes which the author has seen) has died of subsequent hemorrhage.

The very painful, though not generally dangerous complaint of moveable bodies within the knee-joint, is next considered at some length. For the cure, unfortunately, nothing but excision can afford any prospect of success, and this operation is at all times so hazardous, that it is only ad\-viceable when the pain and inconvenience of the complaint are intolerable.

The method of cure occupies more than a third of the volume, and the merit of all the usual remedies is discussed with considerable attention. We do not find much novelty in the mode of cure proposed: On the first attack, leeches and farrimine lotions are recommended, where the symptoms are evidently inflammatory; but if otherwise, astringent applications, especially decoction of oak bark and alum. Blisters are recommended very warmly in every case. Among the topical stimulants, the author particularizes the powder of gum ammoniac moistened with vinegar of squills, and the favine ointment recommended by Mr. Crowther.

After treating of the cure of white swelling, the author considers the mode of practice in simple inflammation, gouty and rheumatic affection, and swellings of the buræ mucóæ.

A short chapter on anchylosis and a few formulæ for some of the applications here recommended, conclude the volume. Three plates are added, one of the diseased enlargement of the head of the tibia described in the seventh chapter, and the two others of different species of anchylosis.

**Practical Information on the Malignant Scarlet Fever and Sore Throat, in which a new Mode of Treatment is freely communicated; by E. Peart, M. D. 1802, pp. 64. 8vo.**

As our principal object in this Retrospect of Medical Publications, is to relate, in a few words, the facts that may be brought forward in the numerous publications that are laid before the public, and the practical information to be derived from them, we shall only observe on the pamphlet before us, that the author, after describing the circumstances of a very malignant fever and sore throat that prevailed in the summer and autumn of 1801, and resided most of the usual remedies, relates, that he employed a solution of ammonia preparata, or carbonate of ammonia, in the proportion of two drachms to five ounces of water, of which two tea-spoonfuls were taken...
taken every two, three, or four hours, according to the urgency of the symptoms.

The success, he asserts, was so great, and so much beyond his most sanguine wishes, that he considers this remedy as almost a specific in this dreadful malady. The title of this pamphlet, *Practical Information*, is not very happily chosen, as the above simple fact is all the practical matter in the volume. A large portion of it is occupied with a violent attack on the modern chemical theories, very improperly, though commonly, termed *French*, as this term can only be applied, exclusively, to the system of nomenclature, and by no means to the discovery of the facts, or even the theories which have given it birth. If the manner of our author's attack is not the happiest, we must allow that he has selected his adversary's weak side, for such we may certainly consider the fashion or rage for explaining by mere chemical principles, and especially by the agency of oxygen, the operation of so many of the most powerful medicines.

The author takes no little credit to himself for divulging the improvements which he persuades himself he has made in the treatment of several disorders, and not making a pecuniary advantage of them as secrets.

*Practical Information on Inflammation of the Bowels and strangulated Rupture, in which a new Method of treating those Disorders is faithfully communicated;* by E. Peart, M.D. 1802. pp. 38. 8vo.

This treatise is certainly more practical than the last. The author, after a few remarks on the nature of enteritis and of incarcerated hernia, gives it as his opinion, that the two complaints are similar in nature, only that the latter has an assignable cause, which is not always the case with the former. After undervaluing in some degree the importance of the operation for hernia, on account of its removing only the cause of the disease, and not always its effects, he proceeds to propose the new discovered remedy for both these disorders, announced in the title page—"And what is it?" the reader will ask. "Is it digitalis, cold affusion, or some new gum from New Holland?"

This new remedy is a pill composed of five grains of calomel, and another of one grain of opium, which are to be repeated every hour or two; sometimes, however, increasing the opium if the pain be great, or diminishing it, if the patient is easy. Cafes are given, we doubt not with fidelity, in which both hernia and enteritis were removed by this simple practice; and the author describes his great satisfaction, "at having now; for the first time, found a remedy," (we give his own words and italics) "evidently possessed of prompt and powerful influence over the disease."
Practical Information on St. Anthony's Fire, or Erysipelas, and on Erythematous Affections in general; as also on the Measles, in which new Modes of Treatment are communicated; by E. Peart, M. D. 1802. p. 33. 8vo.

The author introduces the remedy by the history of a case of severe erysipelasous inflammation of the right leg, attended with high fever, delirium, and a very formidable train of symptoms. He saw the patient after he had been ill for three days, during which time he had undergone the usual mode of medical treatment, but the fever continued, and the part threatened gangrene. He immediately prescribed one drachm of volatile alkali to be made into pills, with aromatic confection, to be taken every two or three hours. As an external application, he directed a solution of ammonia preparata, sugar of lead, and spirit of ammonia in water; and the precipitated lead was directed not to be washed off. The patient recovered speedily under this practice, which, under these circumstances, was certainly very judicious, and probably contributed much to the cure. We have, however, heard of the use of ammonia and aromatic confection in similar cases, before we learnt that it was a discovery of Dr. Peart.

The same alkali is proposed in the worst cases of measles, but more doubtfully.

Anatomical Plates of the Bones and Muscles, diminished from Albinus, for the Use of Students in Anatomy and Artists, and accompanied by explanatory Maps; by Robert Hooper, M. D. 1802. p. 22. 12mo.

When the magnificent plates of Albinus are cut down to a very small duodecimo, all that can be expected, is to preserve a general outline and distribution of parts.

The plates are as nearly executed as could reasonably be expected, and if employed as the A, B, C of anatomy, they will have their use. After each plate from Albinus, a sketch for reference is added, and the sketches or maps are washed with different colours in the several parts, which renders the explanation and reference very easy.

This little volume is intended to accompany the author's Anatomist's Vade Mecum.

The Anatomy of the Brain, explained in a Series of Engravings; by Charles Bell, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. 1802.

This beautiful, accurate, and elegant work is a real acquisition to the study of anatomy. The engraving is coloured, and is executed in a soft delicate style, which most happily expresses the natural appearance of the parts, an advantage of peculiar value in the complicated and minute anatomy of the brain. The author is himself the draughtsman, a circumstance which tends to ensure the fidelity
fidelity of representation, and strongly enforces the utility of making the art of drawing an essential in the education of those whose profession requires a knowledge of the situation of natural objects.

This work consists of twelve plates (one of which is copied from the splendid and admirable work of the late much lamented Vicq d'Azyr) and the position of the different parts is so varied, as to give a very clear idea of the anatomy of this noble organ. Peculiar attention appears to be bestowed on the representation of the ventricles and the parts immediately contiguous to them in the centre of the skull.

Each plate is accompanied with its explanation, and the figures of reference are very delicately inserted in the plate, without injuring the general effect in any sensible degree.

An Appendix is added, in which the claim of the present Professor of Anatomy at Edinburgh to the discovery of the communication between the two lateral ventricles of the brain is opposed from the writings of Vieussens, Winslow, Haller, and even the older anatomists.

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The earths, when combined with each other, frequently produce compositions which may be taken for new simple earths, and thus account for the errors that are sometimes committed in the analysis of stones and fossils. Cit. Guyton had already made us acquainted with the action of earths on each other; Cit. Darracq repeating his experiments, confutes them, and adds several new ones, while he at the same time doubts the accuracy of others. The results of his experiments are as follow.

1. Cit. Guyton had thought, that on mixing together lime-water and the water of barytes, a precipitation was produced; which fact, however, never succeeded in Cit. Darracq’s experiments, and he therefore believes, that the lime employed by that chemist contained a little sulphuric acid, which occasioned this precipitation.

2. The water of frontian, of barytes, and of lime, mixed together, did not yield any precipitation.

3. The