XLII. Account of a new instrument for the extraction of teeth, by the inventor

Mr. Reece

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other causes of resistance; but in mills there is not only friction, but obstacles to be removed: and experiments made on friction have proved that the frictions of many kinds of bodies increase in direct proportion to their velocity. But the velocity of a cotton-mill at work may be considered as a mechanical effect, and, if so, must correspond with its producing cause.

XLII. *Account of a new Instrument for the Extraction of Teeth, by the Inventor, Mr. REECE, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.*

SIR,

Craven-Street, Strand, Aug. 15, 1801.

IN the first Number of the second Volume of your very useful Publication is an account of an instrument for the extraction of teeth, which the inventor (a Mr. Brown) represents as a *very great improvement* of the German key instruments. This *great improvement* consists in a depression on the front of the fulcrum, which (as he observes) “forms a bed to receive the tooth.” The experiments of Mr. Brown, I am well informed, were made on an old jaw of a skeleton, the alveolar process of which being imperfect, the application of the concaved fulcrum to the convexity of the tooth was easily admitted; and, no doubt, its extraction effected “without much violence to the jaw, or pain to the patient.” But in the *living subject*, the alveolar process and contiguous soft parts being interposed between the *concaved* fulcrum and the tooth, the *great advantages* derived from this *invention* are, an unavoidable laceration and contusion of the gum, and great violence to the jaw-bone and socket, producing troublesome inflammation and often alarming hemorrhagies, from there being no corresponding eminence of the gum, on which it rests, to fill up the hollow (the bed) of the fulcrum: the corners, by the pressure necessary for the expulsion of the tooth (which, when firm, is very considerable) are productive of very serious mischief; and those practitioners who were induced to give these instruments a trial, experiencing their bad effects, have returned them to the maker.

Similar effects (however, in a much less degree) too often arise from the pressure of the heel of the instrument in common use, and the oblique direction in which the tooth is extracted; to obviate which I have invented an instrument which, by the peculiar curvature of the claw, elevates the tooth in nearly
a per-

a perpendicular direction, and from the structure of the fulcrum, the pressure, not falling on the gum till the tooth is a little raised, is very trifling for its complete expulsion, by which means the injury of the jaw-bone and contusion of contiguous soft parts are avoided, and, consequently, the most painful part of the operation. The surrounding gum being previously separated by the scarificator (which accompanies it) from the tooth, that the claw of the instrument may be applied as low down as the alveolar process will admit of, the upper part of the fulcrum will, on turning the instrument, apply itself exactly opposite to the end of the claw; the operation is afterwards performed with the greatest facility, and my patients have uniformly expressed their surprise at the slight pain they experienced. As the instrument may be seen at Mr. Whitford's, surgical instrument maker, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who is fully competent to give every information respecting it, I judge any further delineation of it here unnecessary.

Should the instrument I now recommend to the attention of my professional brethren meet with their support by the result of practice, I shall be amply rewarded for my trouble by the honour of their approbation.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,
RICHARD REECE.

To Mr. Tillock.

XLIII. *Account of New Publications, &c.*

- I. *An Account of Travels into the Interior of Southern Africa, in the Years 1797 and 1798: including cursory Observations on the Geology and Geography of the Southern Part of that Continent; the Natural History of such Objects as occurred in the Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral Kingdoms; and Sketches of the Physical and Moral Characters of the various Tribes of Inhabitants surrounding the Settlement of the Cape of Good Hope. To which is annexed a Description of the present State, Population and Produce of that extensive Colony; with a Map constructed entirely from actual Observations made in the Course of the Travels.* By JOHN BARROW, late Secretary to the Earl of Macartney, and Auditor-General of the Public Accounts, at the Cape of Good Hope. 4to. CADELL and DAVIES.

THE nature and design of this publication are so fully expressed in the title as to leave us nothing to add on these points.