



LI. Report of surgical cases in the City and Finsbury Dispensaries for August 1807

John Taunton Esq.

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every system, between which and his own Lord Stanhope has drawn or may draw a comparison, referring also to the number of *beats* made per 1" by each tempered conchord, throughout the whole scale, we shall ultimately be able to bring his Lordship's loud pretensions to pre-eminence over every other system, to a more scientific and competent test, than the *opinion* of 60 or 70 *anonymous persons*, who heard an instrument played upon, which, Lord Stanhope says, (vol. xxv. p. 306) was tuned according to his system. See Monthly Magazine, vol. xxii. p. 114.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

JOHN FAREY.

12, Upper Crown-Street, Westminster,
January 15, 1808.

LI. *Report of Surgical Cases in the City and Finsbury Dispensaries for August 1807.* By JOHN TAUNTON, Esq.

IN the month of August there were admitted on the books of the City and Finsbury Dispensaries 188 surgical patients.

Cured or relieved	-	-	171
Died	-	-	1
Under cure	-	-	16
			<hr/>
			188
			<hr/>

Mrs. A. C. æt. 53, of a thin spare habit of body and of a very delicate constitution, has been afflicted with hernia in the left thigh upwards of 20 years : it first appeared subsequent to a difficult labour, and was much aggravated by a second labour about two years afterwards : she suffered much from carrying heavy burthens, and was frequently confined to the house for some days. For about the first eight years it could be easily returned by placing the body in a horizontal position ; but from that time it has been irreducible, and occasionally attended with great pain, sickness, vomiting, and constipation of the bowels ; for which, however, she had not any surgical assistance till the present attack,

which

which took place on Monday August 24th, when she was seized with violent pain and tension of the abdomen similar to labour pains. The neighbours gave her the usual carminatives; but the pain increased, the tumour enlarged, vomiting, hiccup, and cold sweats came on; she was worse on the 25th, and was delirious at night. On the 26th in the morning an aperient medicine was given, but that was immediately rejected on its being received into the stomach. At four o'clock in the afternoon an enema was injected, but that also returned immediately without any feculent matter. On the 27th she was much worse during the whole day, feculent matter being vomited in large quantities. I saw her for the first time at nine o'clock in the evening, when the pulse was scarcely perceptible, the extremities cold, the eyes had a peculiar wild stare, and the body was partially covered with a profuse cold sweat: she appeared to be nearly in articulo mortis. Having explained the extreme danger of the case to the patient and to her husband, she expressed her desire of having the operation immediately performed. The hernia was situated under Poupart's ligament, on the inner side of the large blood-vessels (the usual seat of crural or femoral hernia). An incision of about three inches in length was made through the integuments along the middle of the tumour, beginning at the inferior edge of Poupart's ligament. The fascia was thin, and very little adipose substance intervened between the integuments and hernial sac; which last was also extremely thin, but did not contain any fluid, and adhered to the omentum which was much discoloured and compressed, the circulation having ceased in every part of it. It was then removed by excision close to the mouth of the sac, the edges of the integuments were supported in contact, by two sutures and some straps of adhesive plaster. The patient lay perfectly quiet during the operation, from which she did not express any sensation of pain. Two spoonfuls of an aperient medicine were then given, which remained on the stomach. She was quiet during the night, but did not sleep. 28th. There had not been any pain or sickness since the operation, the pulse was somewhat more distinct, but the extremities remained cold. The aperient medicine was repeated,

and

and succeeded by a copious evacuation by stool. The hiccup and vomiting returned in the evening for a short time; after which she slept well, and was much recovered in the morning, when she took some breakfast with an appetite. September the 1st the wound was dressed, which had nearly healed by the first intention; she appeared to be gaining health and strength rapidly, and was completely recovered by the 10th.

In the course of the year 1807, 1419 surgical patients have been admitted on the books of the City Dispensary.

Cured or relieved	-	1139
Died	- - -	15
Remain under treatment		265
		<hr/> 1419 <hr/>

The estimated expense, including drugs, salaries, house-rent, taxes, &c., attending the treatment of the above 1419 patients, does not exceed 247*l.* 10*s.*!

JOHN TAUNTON,
Surgeon to the City and Finsbury
Dispensaries, Lecturer on Ana-
tomy, Surgery, Physiology, &c.

Greville-street, Hatton-garden,
January 23, 1808.

LII. *On the Means of gaining Power in Mechanics.*

To Mr. Tilloch.

SIR,

AMONG the mathematicians of every age much labour and time have been employed to discover *the means of gaining mechanical power*; and even in these enlightened times, although numerous individuals of distinguished talents and reputation persist in asserting the impossibility of gaining such power, the contrary opinion is, notwithstanding, cherished and acted upon by as many, perhaps, of equal genius and science. Yet, inconsistent as it may appear, the result of the experiments and practice during more than 2000 years, is, that principles and maxims have gradually been established utterly discouraging every hope of success in the pursuit.

This