



XIII. Report of surgical cases in the finsbury dispensary from the beginning of February to the end of April 1807; with the appearances, on dissection, in a case of aneurism; and some observations on that disease

John Taunton

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is ever the natural resource of ignorance and weakness) as the completion of all that is vile and deceitful. Thus have we continued a system of neglect towards the interests of our native subjects in points the most essential to their every happiness, throughout the whole of our governments in this country. Fain, my lord, would I see a change in this particular; and I seize the opportunity which the present moment affords, to press the justice and the policy of the measure on the attention of your lordship's government.

Having the honour to remain,

With the highest respect, my lord,

Your lordship's faithful and obedient humble servant,

(Signed) R. H. KERR,

Senior Chaplain of Fort St. George.

Madras,
Nov. 3, 1806.

XIII. Report of Surgical Cases in the Finsbury Dispensary from the Beginning of February to the End of April 1807; with the Appearances, on Dissection, in a Case of Aneurism; and some Observations on that Disease, by JOHN TAUNTON.

DURING the above three months there were admitted 259 patients.

Cured or relieved	-	-	227
Died	-	-	1
Under cure	-	-	31
			<hr/> 259 <hr/>

In the Philosophical Magazine for December 1806, a case of aneurism is noticed, with the intention of being reported on.

J. J., æt. 55, was admitted a patient of the Finsbury Dispensary on the 13th of November last. From his own account his health had been declining for about the space of three years, and about the beginning of July 1806 he observed a swelling on the left side of his neck, immediately

F 2

above

above the sternum ; which now (Nov. 13th) extended from the upper part of that bone to the superior part of the larynx, with extremely strong pulsations, corresponding with the motions of the heart, which were irregular. The tumour readily disappeared on continued pressure, but on that being removed it immediately resumed its former size and appearance. He died on the 26th of the same month.

On raising the sternum the aneurismal sac was in close contact with the internal and superior part of that bone, but did not contain "one particle" of coagulated blood : the origin of the sac was from the superior part of the curve of the aorta, immediately on the right side of the left carotid artery : the opening by which it communicated with the aorta was about a quarter of an inch in diameter : the ascending aorta was enlarged and *ossified* in several points : the muscular substance of the left ventricle of the heart was much thickened.

The lungs were healthy, as well as the abdominal viscera.

The dissection of this, together with similar cases in my possession (the preparations of which are preserved), in which this disease has proceeded till it terminated the existence of the individual sufferers, without any *coagulum being formed in the aneurismal sac*, are strongly opposed to an opinion advanced in Mr. John Bell's Surgery. "It is not less imaginary," says that author, "that the blood can be pushed back from the aneurismal bag into the artery ; there is no such thing, it is a mere delusion ; as the blood coagulates very soon, and does not contain one particle fluid enough to be returned into the vessel."

It is also considered by many, that in the operation for aneurism and wounded arteries, where it is necessary to take up the vessel, the passing of two ligatures round the vessel and dividing it between the ligatures, is of modern invention ; but it appears that this mode of operating was known to Paré, Fabricius, and others.

"Sometimes, also, the surgeon needs to cut the vessel entirely across, by which its ends shrinking both ways
among

among the flesh the flux stops; but always the surest way is to tie the vessel before cutting it thus across*."

"Deinde partes utrinque, filo ligare, et transversum totum vas prescindere †."

JOHN TAUNTON,

Surgeon to the City and Finsbury Dispensaries, Lecturer on Anatomy, Surgery, Physiology, &c.

Greville-street, Hatton-garden,
October 23, 1807.

XIV. *Proceedings of Learned Societies.*

FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

[Continued from vol. xxviii. p. 372.]

WHILE a noble spirit of rivalry pervades the candidates, the botanists who are members of the class, by continuing their labours, have shown themselves worthy of being the chief judges of this great assembly.

M. Ventenat is proceeding with his work upon the Garden of Malmaison. A new number, being the 20th, has recently appeared.

The first of the species which are there described is a superb original leguminous plant from Botany Bay, and which presents in the organs of fructification characters which have not been as yet observed in the vegetables of this family. M. Ventenat does not hesitate to make a new genus of it, to which he has referred a species also cultivated at Malmaison, although it has not as yet flourished; but it resembles the former so much in its appearance, that it is almost certain it must conform to it in the organs of fructification.

The second of these species is an original malvaceous plant from the Canaries, the flowers of which are as large as those of the garden ketmia, and are of a fire-red colour, which is extremely rare in the plants of this family. This work of M. Ventenat must occasion the friends of science

* Parée.

† Fabricius.