

an institution, like a city-feast, or a college gaudy; vol. iii, p. 405; and to support the essential dogma of Socinianism—the mere humanity of Christ; vol. iii, p. 429. More anxious to point out merits than to expose faults, we must refer our readers, for the confutation of such errors, to those able divines of our Church, who have made the vindication and support of her doctrines their peculiar care. These things must be expected in the works of such an author, as a diminution, not unforeseen, of the value of his volumes.

In these Sermons we find many instances of clear reasoning, but very few of animated exhortation. Every address is made to the judgment, and not to the passions. Dr. E. too fearful of becoming enthusiastic, is sometimes languid and cold: yet there are passages, which remind us of the elegance of Carr, and the imagery of Blair. His chief talent consists in expressing common ideas in clear and apposite language; and he so well inculcates the moral precepts of Christianity, that, with reference to them, his Sermons may be read to advantage by every class of believers.

To these volumes is prefixed a very respectable and numerous list of subscribers; among whom, for the credit of the establishment, in point of candour and liberal spirit, it ought to be mentioned, that we observe many clergymen of the Church of England.

**ART. IV.** *Practical Observations on the Disease of the Joints, commonly called White-Swelling, with some Remarks on Scrofulous Abscesses.* By Bryan Crowther, Surgeon to Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospitals. 8vo. 122 pp. 2s. 6d. Robinsons. 1797.

**M**R. POTT having observed that caries of the spine might be cured by the application of caustics near the vertebræ, and intimated that a purulent discharge from the neighbourhood of other diseased joints, would be found to be equally efficacious in their cure, this practice has been pretty generally adopted, and with no inconsiderable success. In the year 1793, the present author published, in the fourth volume of *Medical Facts and Observations*, an account of some cases which had been successfully treated by that method. Further experience has not only justified the opinion he then adopted, but enabled him to make alterations in the method of obtaining the proposed drain, which he has found to be more generally practicable and

efficacious, than that obtained by the application of caustics; which, he observes, in cases where the integuments are very thin, cannot always be applied with safety, so near the diseased joint as to produce the desired effect.

The application Mr. Crowther substitutes for the caustic, is an ointment prepared by boiling fresh favin bruised, in a composition of yellow wax and mutton suet, until the juice of the favin is perfectly incorporated with the ointment, when it is to be strained and put by for use. A blister is directed to be applied over the diseased joint, and when the cuticle is removed, the sore is to be dressed with this cerate, taking care, at every dressing, to keep the part clean. A variety of cases are given, in which the patients were completely cured by this method; or where the disease was too far advanced to admit of a cure, so much relief was procured as seems to leave no doubt of the efficacy of the medicine. We shall transcribe two of the cases, in order to give our readers a more complete idea of the diseases for which the remedy is recommended, as well as of the method of using it.

“Case 21. E. P. eleven years old, of a scrofulous family, had an indolent white-swelling, for about four years; the joint was much swollen, the integuments were thickened, but not œdematous, and the skin was remarkably pallid. This boy was suffering much from the painful state of the part, the disease was making rapid progress, and he could not, as before, bear it to be handled without making great complaint, and on moving the joint, he expressed a sensation of much uneasiness within the articulation. A blister was applied over the whole knee, and was kept discharging with the favin cerate for about two months, by which treatment he perfectly recovered, though the joint for some time remained weak: it is almost two years since, and no symptom of disease has appeared.”

“Case 23. J. S. aged sixteen, had for several months prior to his application to me, suffered great pain within the joint of his knee, before the part began to swell; he could then bear it to be handled without increase of pain, but his using the joint in any way occasioned great uneasiness, and his sufferings were somewhat diminished after the tumefaction appeared. When I saw him, the joint was much distended, and he felt a deep seated pain within the articulation, which affected his health. A blister was first applied to his knee; when the cuticle was removed, the part was dressed with the favin cerate, which application was continued for six months, when he had lost all pain, and the joint in every respect appeared sound, though it was weak for some time.”

It is to be observed, that of the thirty cases here published, more than half were treated with the caustic, and the success with the caustic seems to have been as complete as with  
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the savin. We are not able therefore, from the documents here produced, to judge of the comparative value of the two medicines; the author seems to prefer the savin. In his first directions\*, the author permitted the patients to be taken daily into the air, or to walk by means of a crutch, but he has since found it necessary to abridge them of this liberty.

“ Perfect quietude of the limb,” he says, “ is requisite for the recovery of a diseased joint, but more particularly if the part should be in a disposition to anchylosis. At the time I inserted some observations in the fourth volume of *Medical Facts*, I was not then aware of the necessity of absolute rest, which I have since found to be indispensable in these cases.” P. 19.

While we commend the candour of the author in retracting the opinion he had before given, we cannot help expressing our concern at his omitting to notice Mr. Ford's *Treatise on the Diseases of the Hip-Joint, White-Swelling, &c.* published in the year 1794. In that valuable work, the reason of this practical rule is explained, and enforced with much energy. Mr. C.'s silence in this respect is the more remarkable, as he seems to have followed the plan adopted by Mr. Ford in treating upon the subject, particularly in calling the attention of surgeons to the works of Hippocrates and other ancient writers.

From the whole, the author draws the following important conclusions.

“ That long continued discharges, artificially excited, are highly beneficial in every stage of white-swelling, and in other modifications of serofula. That caries has been arrested, and sometimes cured; that collections of fluid within the cavities of joints, or exterior to them have been removed; that sores connected with the local affection have been permanently healed, and a repetition of them prevented; that the general health has been strikingly improved, and serofulous appearances in parts distant from the drain have yielded to it.”

Thus far the author has, we believe, the concurrence of the most experienced surgeons; but “that the best method of producing such discharge, is the application of a common blister in the first instance, and when the cuticle is removed, in dressing the part with the savin cerate,” will not perhaps be so readily admitted. Although we have no doubt that the author has faithfully recorded his experiments with the savin, yet the experience of one man seems hardly sufficient to entitle a medicine to such a pre-eminence, as he assigns to the cerate here

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\* *Medical Facts and Observations*, vol. iv, p. 16.

recommended. Time and further observations seem necessary to decide the point, and to these tests it must be left; in the meanwhile, the author is entitled to much commendation for the zeal with which he has prosecuted the subject, and for laying the result of his observations before the public. The publication of this account of the book has been delayed by mere accident.

ART. V. *The Annual Register, or a-View of the History, Politics, and Literature, for the Year 1793.* 8vo. 432 pp. 8s. Otridge and Son, &c.

THIS volume, though it appears like the continuation of that which we have already noticed, is sent forth by different publishers, and is manifestly the work of different writers. In Mr. Doddsley's life-time, Messrs. Rivington, with his consent, began a continuation of his Annual Register. The publishers of the volume before us appear to claim, under an assignment from Mr. Doddsley's executors. This claim produced a war of advertisements, the result of which appears to be, that the assignment was only for the printed volumes from 1758 to 1790: that in 1794 Mr. Doddsley wholly relinquished the publication, when Messrs. Rivington took it up, in connection with the gentleman who for twenty-five years had been the principal author. This induced us to call their work the *Original Annual Register*, a book being more properly designated from its author than its editors. As to their literary merits, judging from the specimen before us, we cannot but remark a great disparity. The historical part of Messrs. Rivington's publication, our readers must have observed, though professing only to furnish materials for future writers, is itself a complete and elegant history, leaving nothing to desire either on the score of laborious research, accurate detail, or just and forcible language. The work now to be noticed, viewing it in the most favourable light, must rank with those compilations, which, with no great exertion of talent, may be formed from the common journals of the day.

The History is contained in eight chapters, beginning with the origin and causes of the war, and ending with the evacuation of Toulon by the British troops. Of these chapters the four first treat wholly of domestic, and the four last of continental affairs. The former consist chiefly of the Parliamentary Debates,