Abscessus, Amputatio, Arthritis, Atrophia, Cancer, Cholera, Febris, Fungus, Galvanismus, Gangræna, Gonorrhæa, Hæmorrhagia, and Hernia.

It is in general a leading character of these articles that they contain correct and sound views, both theoretical and practical, of the present state of medical and surgical opinion, and that the editor has assigned to the proper source any merit in contributing to the advancement of medicine and surgery as a science, or to its improvement and perfection as an art.

It is singular, however, that in the article *Decapitatio sive Amputatio Epiphysium, Resectio Articulorum*, by Ch. J. D. Wiedow, devoted to the consideration of the question as to propriety of removing diseased articular surfaces, the circumstances which determine its admissibility, and the best mode of performing the operation, no mention is made of the name of Mr Syme, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, to whom this operation is assuredly in this country under greater obligations than to any other surgeon in modern times. This omission, it is to be hoped, the editor will supply in a subsequent edition.

ART. VIII.—*The Works of John Hunter, F. R. S. with Notes.* Edited by JAMES F. PALMER, Senior Surgeon to the St George's and St James's Dispensary; Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. In four volumes, illustrated by a volume of Plates in 4to. Vol. i. London, 1835. Pp. 643. Vol. ii. London, 1835. Pp. 448.

JOHN HUNTER was one of those eminent and talented individuals whose mental energies enable them to rise above the age in which they live, and who accordingly effect, in the departments of science which they cultivate, changes and improvements, the full value of which cannot be appreciated during their lifetime. Any person, indeed, who contemplates in the Royal College of Surgeons the labours of that indefatigable man in comparative anatomy, and every thing which could elucidate the mysteries and extend the boundaries of physiology and its applications, must be struck with the fact, that at that period one individual had the courage and perseverance to accomplish so much. The conception even of such an undertaking was at the time in the highest degree original; and when we consider how few would feel any sympathy in such pursuits, how scanty and limited evidently were the means of prosecuting them with success, it must be admitted that the mind of Hunter must have possessed almost a prophetic power in fore-

seeing the nature and extent of the benefits his services were to render to medicine and surgery, and of the celebrity which they were to confer upon his name.

To the actual labours of Hunter, his written works bear but a small proportion; and, however able those were which he published in his lifetime, and the one which appeared after his death, they scarcely enable us to form a just idea of his merits. It is in the Museum collected by his diligence, and in the descriptive accounts of the objects preserved, that physiologists must endeavour to form correct notions of the value and amount of his services. This circumstance renders the destruction of these manuscripts by Sir Everard Home so much the more to be deplored, that no means now remain of rendering to Hunter the merit to which his extraordinary services entitle him.

Of the life, character, actions, and writings of a man such as John Hunter, the rising members of the profession cannot know too much; and if he had faults, of which the life in the present volume gives abundant proof, yet, by the imitation of his industry and perseverance in the acquisition of correct knowledge, the young medical practitioner may be taught to employ his spare time to advantage, to think for himself, and to acquire confidence in the irresistible effects of unremitting application.

But even this is not the full amount of the benefit accruing from the perusal of the works of such a man. The inquisitive mind must be gratified in recognizing in several of these writings the rudimental germs of many doctrines which are now familiar to all, and in tracing the steps by which genius, combined with industry and steadiness, brings order out of confusion, simplicity out of complex and intricate processes, and arrives, by long and sometimes wearisome inquiries, at general and essential results. Shall we add, that the treatise on the Blood and Inflammation is much more spoken of than studied, and the knowledge of many of the doctrines therein promulgated, often indeed not very clearly, requires to be still more generally diffused among practitioners than it has hitherto been.

To accomplish these objects, one of the best means is certainly a collected edition of the whole of the published writings of John Hunter, in a form so commodious as to be accessible to the great majority of readers. Such a proposition includes not only his treatises on the teeth, the venereal disease, and the blood and inflammation, but all those separate memoirs and essays which are scattered through several different periodical works and transactions.

The present edition is exactly such as is calculated to fulfil these different objects. The editor, Mr Palmer, shows, in a judicious and well written preface, that he understands perfectly

the nature of the duty which he has undertaken. He is evidently well acquainted with the character and writings of Hunter, and has formed a very just estimate of his merits. He has also been fortunate in the selection of able coadjutors. In a well written and interesting biography of John Hunter, by Mr Drewry Ottley, the reader is not only made acquainted with several facts in the history, and several features in the character, of Hunter not previously known, but he is taught not to regard the subject of the memoir with indiscriminate admiration, but to distinguish the genuine and characteristic merits of the mind of Hunter, amidst several blemishes and defects.

Besides this life, the first volume contains his Lectures in Surgery, now published for the first time, with various notes by the editor, either supplying deficiencies, or placing the information therein contained on a level with that of the present day.

The second volume contains the Treatise on the Natural History and Diseases of the Human Teeth, and that on the Venereal Disease; and when we say that the former is under the superintendence of Mr Thomas Bell, and the latter under that of Mr George G. Babington, our readers will perceive that the editor has taken every means to insure the utility of his publication. Both of these gentlemen have added numerous valuable notes, either in explanation of principles too obscurely announced by the author, rectifying the few statements which further experience has now shown to be erroneous, or in supplying deficiencies which have naturally resulted from the progressive advancement of physiological and pathological science. In the Treatise on the Venereal Disease, where perhaps this species of commentary was most needed, Mr Babington has repeatedly introduced valuable notes bringing the pathological principles and therapeutic measures to the simplicity and energy of modern surgery. At the same time, it is proper to mention, that all this is kept apart, and the text of Hunter is now presented to the profession in the purest form yet known.

We shall look with impatience and anxiety, yet not without well-grounded confidence, for the completion of this first edition of the *whole* collected works of John Hunter. If finished, as it has been commenced, it will then constitute one of the most valuable works which the physiological surgeon can possess; one in which the junior members of the profession will always find useful instruction, and one which the oldest and most experienced will be unable to peruse without interest and advantage.