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, &c. In four volumes 8vo, illustrated by a Volume of Plates in Quarto, Vol. iii. and Vol. iv. London, 1837.

SINCE we last directed the attention of our readers in our forty-eighth volume (No. 132,) to the appearance of the first and second volumes of this publication, the third and fourth, which conclude the work, have appeared; and the profession have now before them, in a collected form, the whole of the written remains of Mr John Hunter, which escaped the injudicious proceedings of Sir Everard Home.

The third volume contains the treatise on the blood, inflammation, and gunshot wounds; the essay on inflammation of the internal coat of veins; the papers on intus-susception; that on the Hunterian method of performing the operation for the cure of popliteal aneurism, as published by Sir Everard Home; the case of palsy of the pharynx and œsophagus; the observations on loose cartilages within the joints, especially the knee-joint, as published by Sir Everard Home; and the observations on horny excrescences, as published by the same.

Of these we shall speak first of the treatise on the blood and inflammation. This is the production, to which there is no doubt Hunter himself attached most importance, and which has hitherto of all his writings been generally believed to be most strongly impressed with the marks of the originality and genius of the author. Whether these notions be well founded or not, our limits will not permit us to inquire. It is enough to say, that, confused and unmethodical as its arrangement is, and careless and rugged as the style often appears, and, notwithstanding frequent obscurity in thought, it contains a larger proportion of original matter in the way of observation and remark, than any work of the same compass on the subject. It forms also the basis of all the modern treatises; and contains the germs of the pathological doctrines by which modern surgery is most happily distinguished. Nor is it a work alone for the surgeon. No physician can well understand his profession without being intimately conversant with the facts and principles there promulgated. Its distinguishing merit, indeed, consists in the exposition of great general physiological and pathological principles, and their application to explain the phenomena of disease in all the textures, without regard to the distinctions of physic and surgery; and hence the treatise of Mr Hunter

must ever be regarded as alike useful to all who wish to form correct notions of the nature and effects of the inflammatory process.

Instructive, however, as this treatise is, and rich in all the most important and necessary principles of scientific pathology, there are numerous points on which it cannot give all the information requisite to the physician or surgeon of the present day. Independent of the comprehensive and methodical treatise of our townsman, Dr Thomson, the useful work of Mr James, and the treatise of M. Gendrin, various monographical essays, rational or experimental, have been published by Black, Wedemeyer, Kaltenbrunner, Koch, Schroeder van der Kolk, and others of inferior note. By a numerous body of observers also various inquiries have been made on the constitution of the blood in health and disease; and indeed on every subject comprehended under, or relating to, the inflammatory process and its effects, multiplied researches have been made, the results of which require to be known to the pathological student. It is also to be observed, that though, in many instances, these inquiries have not been attended with actual additions to, or modifications of, the prevailing doctrines on inflammation, of that circumstance it is not less requisite for the reader to be apprised, than if very great additions or considerable rectifications had been effected.

Perfectly aware of these circumstances, the editor, in introducing to the profession a new edition of Hunter's great undertaking, felt, that, while it was requisite to preserve in the most sacred integrity the whole of the matter of the author, it was not less requisite to inform the reader as he went along, of all the additions, rectifications, and modifications which had been suggested by the incessant labours of forty-five years. With the view of fulfilling this desirable object, Mr Palmer has not only undertaken and accomplished a most laborious task, but he has in its performance shown a rare union of industry and judgment. He has not only shown the reader, by numerous notes under each part, where information was doubtful, erroneous, or insufficient, the actual progress made, and given in this manner, a correct view of the present state of information, but he has enriched the work with a copious and correct bibliographical list of the best writings previous to the time of Hunter, and various writings which have appeared since that time, on the subject of inflammation, and the state of the blood, and also on the subject of gunshot wounds. These services cannot fail to be of great advantage to the reader, who is thus put in possession of the means of prosecuting his inquiries to whatever extent he chooses.

Of the rest of the papers completing the volume we need say nothing. Their merits are very well known. Where their contents are behind the present state of knowledge, Mr Palmer has

supplied the defect, by stating, from the best authorities, the requisite information.

The fourth and last volume contains the series of memoirs, which, though at first mostly published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, were afterwards collected first in 1786 and again in 1792, and sent before the world under the name of *Observations on certain parts of the Animal Economy*.

It is well known that these papers relate to various subjects on Comparative Anatomy and General Physiology. In preparing this part of the works of Mr Hunter for the eye of the profession, Mr Palmer has had the good fortune to secure the appropriate and valuable aid of Mr Owen, whose long and intimate acquaintance with the contents of the Hunterian Museum, and whose habitual occupation in zootomical researches, rendered him peculiarly well fitted for the undertaking. The good effects of this arrangement appear throughout the volume.

In a preface, exceeding the usual length of that class of compositions, and which would be tedious were it not interesting, Mr Owen takes a view of the labours of Hunter in the department of general and comparative anatomy, shows how far he had preceded all his contemporaries in the diligent elucidation of the most intricate and obscure structures, how ingenious were his conjectures, how powerful his faculty of anticipating generalization. This preface we recommend to the perusal of all those who may have hitherto known the life and writings of Hunter imperfectly, or who may, from his eminence as a surgeon and pathologist, have thought that his talents were confined to that alone. It is also valuable for showing how frankly one eminent comparative anatomist explains the merits of another.

To the individual papers of which the volume is composed, Mr Owen has added, in the form of notes, various observations illustrating the subjects of the memoir, and showing the present state of facts in each. In all these annotations the reader will find much valuable information.

As the subjects of the first three volumes are something different from those of the fourth, the work is closed with a double index, one for the contents of the first three volumes, another for that of the fourth. Both are minute and accurate, and will contribute much to facilitate consultation on any given subject treated.

This short notice of the appearance of the works of the great English physiologist we give in the present form, to induce the junior members of the profession to study carefully the facts observed, the thoughts entertained, and the doctrines taught by one whose originality appeared in every thing he undertook. Of such a publication it would be absurd to attempt either analysis or review. It has often, however, occurred to us that a general view of

the Treatise on Inflammation, with a comparative sketch of the progress of pathology in this department of medico-chirurgical knowledge, might furnish matter for reflection both curious and useful. This neither time nor limits will at present permit us to attempt. But, if amidst the press of matters which daily claim attention, we shall feel that we can accomplish such an undertaking in a manner worthy of the subject and its author, we shall endeavour to explain, as far as our abilities allow, the views of Hunter, and to show in how many points he has been the first promulgator of many doctrines which now constitute the true system of pathological science.

ART. IX. *Counter-irritation, its principles and practice, illustrated by one hundred cases of the most painful and important diseases, effectually cured by external applications.* By A. B. GRANVILLE, M. D. F. R. S. &c. 8vo. London, 1838. Pp. xvi. and 360.

DR GRANVILLE states that the volume now before us contains the result of nine years experience and meditation on the subject of counter-irritation, which he has illustrated by a selection of cases. He has performed his task in a popular, rather than in a professional manner, addressing himself to the general reader rather than to his brethren, not for the purpose of rendering the former independent of the latter, but "to make the public feel that it will be to their interest hereafter, (seeing the mass of stringent evidence contained in the present volume, purposely written for them,) to encourage their medical attendant to act, on all necessary occasions, upon the principles of counter-irritation, instead of prescribing endless pharmaceutical compositions; and, above all, to prevail on him to have recourse to those more potent and successful counter-irritants, the value and nature of which it is the object of the present volume to describe." This principal object seems thus to be to bring counter-irritation into fashion, as a remedy in a large class of diseases of common occurrence, though at the same time we must admit that the work contains facts which will be of use to the general practitioner.

The volume is divided into two parts, the one containing an account of counter-irritants, the mode in which they are applied, the extent to which they may be carried, and the cases to which they are adapted; the other comprehending a detail of one hundred cases which Dr Granville has selected to exemplify and support his doctrines.

In the first of the nine sections into which the first part is divided, Dr Granville enters into an examination of the meaning of