

munication between its upper part, or *fundus*, and the colon, just before that intestine terminates in the rectum. Both the colon and the bladder, at this part, were equally thickened, and the diameter of the former was observed to be contracted, and lessened, on both sides of the opening which led to the bladder, but particularly its lower portion, or that part of it which terminated in the rectum. Hence appears the reason why no *fæces* were discharged *per anum*, because there was a more ready passage into the bladder. Hence also we may readily account for the circumstance of the *fæces* being diffused in and discharged with the urine for some months before the patient's death.

The inferior portion of the bladder, the prostate, rectum, and urethra, appeared to be perfectly found.

Marlborough, May 7,

1784.

V. *Supplement to the account of the good effects of Opium in mortifications. Communicated in a second letter to Dr. Simmons, F. R. S. by Robert Hamilton, M. D. physician at Ipswich, extralicensed*

licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London; and member of the Medical Society of Edinburgh.

AS a supplement to the account of the good effects of opium in mortifications, published in the London Medical Journal (vol. v. p. 75) I request you to add, that Mr. Rolfe, the first patient alluded to, a farmer at Parkstreet near St. Albans, took no less than seven grains of solid opium at a dose. In the space of twenty-four hours he swallowed forty grains, with the addition of eighty drops of *tinct. theb.* in a pint of decoction of Peruvian bark.

In this case the mortification proceeded from a wound in the leg, upwards of six inches in length and four in breadth, received in attempting to open, and pass through a gate on horseback. If this plan had not been pursued he must have speedily died, as the mortification had continued two days, and was spreading most rapidly, accompanied with a constant hiccup, and continual watching, attended with excruciating pain.

Mr. Law, who had the chief merit of this cure, gives the solid opium frequently in doses of ten grains every two hours till rest be obtained;

tained; this is his criterion when to stop: What may appear to you singular (tho' he assures me it has often happened in his practice) is, that instead of producing constipation, which in small doses is the constant effect of opium; it proves in large doses as certainly laxative. He farther declares, that he has administered opium in mortifications in this manner these thirty years.

VI. *An account of the poisonous effects of the Oenanthe Crocata, or Hemlock Dropwort; by Richard Pulteney, M. D. F. R. S. physician at Blandford. Communicated in a letter to Maxwell Garthshore, M. D. F. R. S. & S. A. and by him to Dr. Simmons.*

A Person in the neighbourhood of Blandford having lately been poisoned through a mistake, and the circumstances of the fact variously misrepresented, has induced me to draw up a brief state of the case, from the best information I could procure after her death; and it is accompanied by some observations, which may have