

of three or four table spoonfuls, in the same manner as the common infusion of bark.

X. *An Account of the successful Extirpation of a remarkable Schirrus of the Scrotum. Communicated in a Letter to Dr. Simmons by Mr. Richard Hall, Surgeon to the Manchester Infirmary.* ✓

THOMAS Rhodes, fifty years of age, a very muscular man, and of a healthy aspect, was admitted into the Manchester Infirmary, on the 17th of October, 1785. He gave this account of himself: that between ten and eleven years ago, he had a small indolent tumor formed in the coats of the scrotum, on the left side, totally independent of the testicle, and which grew to the size of a hazel nut, when by means of some applications it rather lessened, but soon began gradually to enlarge again, so that it now hung down below his knees.

The burden was become so inconvenient, and at times so painful, that he was very anxious for the removal of it. He walked about with seemingly much freedom, and could

raise and move it to any direction. It was remarkable, that he could never wear a suspensory, as it occasioned so much pain in the tumor.

He made little complaint of any uneasiness in the loins, but chiefly in the abdominal muscles, and was then subject to colic pains. On the lower and posterior part was a sore, which discharged a very foetid ichor.

The parts which ought to cover the os pubis were drawn down considerably below it; and the right abdominal ring was so dilated, as to occasion a large hernia. The spermatic chords seemed to be free from disease; the penis was entirely buried; but he voided his urine freely.

The dimensions of the tumor, the figure of which was rather irregular, were as follows, viz.

From the os pubis to where the præputium appeared, thirteen inches and a half:

From the os pubis to the lower extremity of the tumor, twenty-two inches and a half:

Lesser circumference of the tumor, below the os pubis, eighteen inches:

Largest circumference, three feet four inches.

After

After extirpation, and when free from all fluid contents, it was found to weigh thirty-six pounds and a half.

The patient lay upon a table, to which was fixed the back part of a wooden chair, which supported the tumor. The operation proved tedious, from the necessary slowness, and securing the vessels as they were divided; notwithstanding which, he lost a good deal of blood; so that he fainted frequently, and was once convulsed.

I began the incision on the right side, about six inches below the os pubis, carrying it nearly to the center of the tumor, and from thence brought it down in a straight line to where the prepuce appeared, which led me to a discovery of the right spermatic chord and penis. The latter I carefully dissected out, leaving a small part of the prepuce to it. The incision being then carried across as at first, exposed the left spermatic chord, and I soon found both testicles entirely free from disease: but as they were denuded, and future bad consequences were apprehended, it was thought prudent to remove them. This I did by making ligatures round the chords, and then dividing them with the scalpel; and from this method I was pleased

to find no inconvenience ensue. I was then employed in dissecting away the schirrus as clean as possible from the skin, of which I left so much, as to completely cover the wound, and the edges were secured by ligatures and sticking plaster: but the penis was so much elongated, as to be left quite bare.

For three or four days after the operation he had a good deal of fever, which abated on the coming on of the digestion, which was very good on the fifth day, and the union of the skin began then to take place. The penis gradually contracted, and the prepuce served for a point of cicatrization, meeting with that from the parts above; so that the whole was completely healed, and my patient was discharged, cured, Dec. 26th, in nine weeks from the time of the operation.

He now, at the expiration of a year, remains perfectly well, except for the hernia, which is less, and for which he wears a truss.

I believe this to be a very singular case, and can no where find mention made of the extirpation of any thing similar to it. Many cases are given us of enlarged scrotums, or rather of farcoceles, in all of which the testicles were diseased, and gave origin to the complaint;

whereas, here the disease was entirely confined to the scrotum, which was a true scirrous mass, so hard as to resist all impression of the hand. This tumor bore a great resemblance to that of the negro mentioned by Cheselden* ; but as that was occasioned by the kick of a horse, it is probable that one or both testicles had received an injury : and the very remarkable one described by Dr. Schotte †, was supposed to be an endemial disease of the testicles.

Manchester,
January 30, 1787.

XI. *An Account of a curious Fact relative to the Effects of crude Mercury. Communicated in a Letter to Dr. Simmons by Michael Underwood, M. D. Physician to the British Lying-in Hospital, and Licentiate in Midwifery of the Royal College of Physicians, London.*

ALTHOUGH the internal exhibition of crude mercury has not been without its advocates, ever since its introduction into me-

* Anatomy of the Human Body. Fourth edition. Tab. 26.

† See the Philos. Transf. Vol. LXXIII. and the London Medical Journal, Vol. V.