

mankind than *Tobacco*. That its properties are of a character to demand attention, also appear to be incontrovertible.

When employed as a luxury, it possesses a peculiarly soothing quality; it relieves corporeal fatigue, and it calms mental perturbation. In a ratio agreeing with these fascinating powers, it becomes dangerous, however, from the hazard of its abuse. When used in moderation, especially when smoked, no evil arises; on the contrary it produces quiet and equanimity, without benumbing the imagination, or weakening the judgment. When used to excess, either in the form of snuff or smoked, the corporeal faculties of taste and smell loose their acuteness of sensibility; and sottishness, dyspepsia, torpor, coma, apoplexy are often the final result.

Considered as an Article of the *Materia Medica*, it requires to be looked upon with prudent suspicion; but when managed with caution and judgment, it is,

- 1st. A ready evacuant of the first passages, and often an active diuretic.
- 2d. A soothing sedative, used in a particular form and appropriate quantity, in some morbid sensibilities of the nervous system, especially as occurring in the trachea and its bronchial ramifications.
- 3d. An effectual resolvent of local spasm when topically applied, as in stricture of the urethra.
- 4th. A powerful stimulant, possessing possibly some specific property, "capable of penetrating the system to its centre; rousing the brain from torpor; and by exciting new and extraordinary actions, breaking the chain of morbid habits and associations."

MEDICUS.

February 10, 1811.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

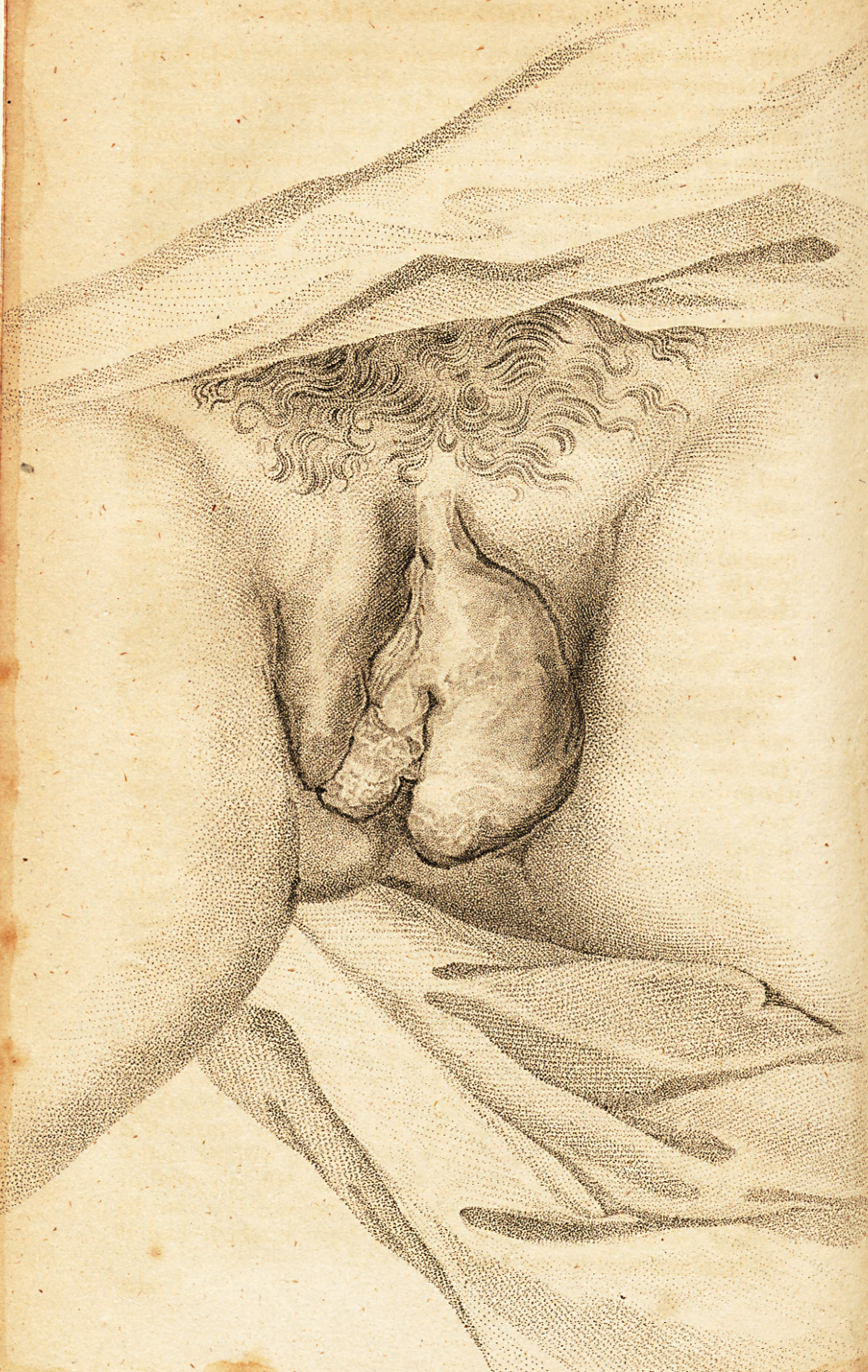
Case of Morbid Enlargement of the Clitoris.

(With an Engraving.)

GENTLEMEN,

THE subject of this case is a female about twenty-seven years of age, has been twice infected with syphilis, the periods of which I have satisfactorily ascertained, in order that the rapid progress of the morbid enlargement of the *Clitoris* might be estimated. I first saw her on the 5th of March,

Morbid enlargement of the Clitoris.



1810, when the clitoris was exceedingly enlarged and altered in its form, concealing the opening of the vagina. On raising this diseased mass, clusters of warts were discovered, which occupied, as far as could be ascertained, the whole course of the vagina: there was a most offensive and copious discharge, which had excoriated the neighbouring parts to a degree that prevented her walking.

The account she at this time gave, was simply that she had contracted the venereal disease six months before, from which time the *clitoris* had been progressively enlarging. She had, during this period, refrained from medical assistance, nor had she used, directly or indirectly, any curative means. She was immediately put on a course of mercurial friction; and at the expiration of six weeks the general character of the disease was much amended, the discharge had subsided, the warts had yielded to the influence of mercury, and her general health was considerably improved. I now stated to her the propriety of submitting to an operation for the removal of the tumour formed by the morbid enlargement of the clitoris, and which in no degree had been lessened by the mercurial course. To this, however, she did not choose to submit. Thus ended my first attendance; when the specific was supposed to have destroyed the syphilitic virus, though *sequela* of its depredations still remained; the most remarkable of which was the diseased clitoris.

On the 15th of December last, she again came under my care, and with more aggravated circumstances than before. The altered structure and enlargement of the clitoris had now the appearance shewn in the Engraving; the discharge was more copious and offensive; and her health was seriously impaired. I was particular in my inquiries whether she had received a fresh infection, and by those inquiries I was confirmed in an opinion suggested by the symptoms: no doubt indeed remained of her having again contracted syphilis. She underwent a second course of mercury, the same favorable change was experienced, with the exception of the warts in the vagina remaining both stationary and numerous.

When it was presumed that the mercurial action had destroyed the syphilitic, and her general health was in a proper state, it was again proposed to her to have this inconvenient and distressing tumour removed by an operation. It may be proper to observe, that under these two mercurial courses this tumour had remained unreduced in size, and without melioration of its condition: indeed, during the whole period of its existence, it rapidly increased, and no estimate can be formed of what magnitude it might have reached, had it not been removed by the knife.

Under these circumstances the patient was induced to consent to the operation ; and on the 24th of January last, the diseased mass was removed by MR. BROOKS *at his Theatre during lecture*. Some hemorrhage took place on the division of the parts, rendering an application of ligature necessary to several vessels. There was very little subsequent inflammation or symptomatic fever, and the wound is nearly healed.

W. M. LEWIS.

Feb. 12, 1811.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the Number of your Journal for January last, a letter is inserted, in which an attempt has been made by Mr. H. Earle, to deprive me of the invention of an Aneurismal Needle described under my name. As it is my intention, however, not to surrender the claim I hold to the originality of this contrivance, *which is well known at St. Bartholomew's Hospital to be my own*, I must beg the favour of your allowing me a place in your useful Journal, merely to shew, that I have not condescended to become the copyist of that gentleman.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, most respectfully,

JOHN JAMES WATT.

Bartholomew Close, 94,

Feb. 14, 1811.