

fail in affording much assistance, when the whole system is contaminated by an open ulcer; but having, on a former occasion, delivered some sentiments on the too hasty removal of supposed scirrhus tumors, I now close what I wished to say on the subject of arsenic.

VII.

Sequel to "An Apology for the Cutting-Gorget." By W. SIMMONS,
Surgeon at Manchester.

ON Sunday, September 10th 1809, I assisted Mr Hamilton at an operation for the stone, upon a boy about four years of age. After Mr H. had made the external incision, and opened the urethra, the aperture into it was concealed by the writhing of the body, so that it became necessary to replace the nates square with the end of the table, as preparatory to the operation, to bring the opening again to correspond with the external wound, when the beak of the gorget found a ready admission into the groove of the staff.

In the usual method of operating, the assistant would now resign the charge of the staff; yet, for him to retain it, and give the handle the required elevation from the right inguen, will be an advantage, since it will confer on the operator the command of both his hands, to introduce the gorget into the bladder. In the present case, I raised, and held the staff, while Mr Hamilton pushed forward the gorget upon it, at once into the bladder. Little force was required to extract the stone, which was of a compact texture, and weighed upwards of four drachms. The urine passed in part along the usual course of the urethra the following day, and he very soon recovered.

In the operation of lithotomy, the part of the urethra to be opened is the *membranous*, to find which, it should be recollected that, in the erect position of the body, the membranous portion of the urethra lies under the centre of the arch of the pubis, a little below the symphysis, having the bulb situated at its anterior, and the prostate gland at its posterior extremity. Making allowance, therefore, for any deviation of the parts from the natural position, occasioned either by the posture of the patient during the operation, or by the projection of the staff *in perineo*, and aiming at the urethra *on a line with the inner surface of the symphysis*

symphysis pubis, that part of the membranous portion of the urethra, which lies contiguous to the prostate gland, will be penetrated by the scalpel. If attention be paid to these particulars, indeed very little projection of the staff *in perineo* will be needed, and thus the risk of the point of it slipping out of the bladder altogether removed; and the section made by the gorget will so little deviate from a straight line, and be so limited in extent, as to supersede, in a great measure, what has been called *making the sweep of the staff*.

In other instances, I have experienced the safety of entrusting the staff, after its introduction, to the care of the assistant-surgeon; and the utility of releasing the left hand of the operator from this restraint will hardly be questioned.

Before I quit the subject, it may be permitted me to lay particular stress, in this stage of the operation, on the importance of attending to the proper adjustment of the patient's body; for, unless the nates are laid square with the end of the table, the side of the bladder might be wounded by the gorget, and other injurious consequences ensue.

This sequel to the "Apology for the Cutting-gorget," which was favoured with insertion in the third number of the former volume, will, I trust, leave little to wish for in conducting the operation of lithotomy by that instrument with precision, certainty, and safety.

Manchester, 21st October 1809.

VIII.

Observations on the Cause of Purulent Ophthalmia of Infants. By
W. ANKERS, Esq. London.

CONTROVERSY, when conducted with candour and moderation by the parties who differ in opinion, is frequently of essential service in elucidating and extending our knowledge of the subject under discussion. The mind, when it is employed in investigating the origin of any particular disease, and has adopted a peculiar doctrine respecting it, is greatly assisted in ascertaining the truth of this doctrine, by having facts and arguments urged, which militate against the conclusions thus drawn. Impressed with this idea, I beg leave, through the medium of your Journal, to offer a few remarks upon a paper in your Number for
 July