

COMMENTARIES. 91

S E C T. II.

Medical Observations.



I.

The History of a Dropsy of the Ovarium, terminating fatally; with an Account of the Appearances on Dissection. By Cuthbert Johnson, M. D. of Sherborne, Dorset.

ANN H——r, of the parish of C—e, in Dorsetshire, aged twenty-one, about the beginning of the year 1777, observed herself greatly to increase in size. And the menstrual discharge ceasing about the same time, she declared herself pregnant by a young man who frequented

frequented her company. She continued to increase in bulk until the usual period of gestation was some time passed; when several eminent practitioners in midwifery were from time to time consulted, who upon examination declared her not to be pregnant. But from an hard substance, which might be felt through the teguments of the abdomen, seemingly about the bigness of a child's head, one of the gentlemen was inclined to think, there was an extra uterine conception. A variety of medicines were administered without effect.

When I first visited her, in July 1778, she appeared to be bigger than most women with child are at their full time. Her flesh was a good deal wasted, yet her appetite not bad; and I was informed that a few weeks before, she had thrown up four or five quarts of a brownish fluid. I could not be clear that I felt any fluctuation by gently striking the abdomen; but I could easily feel the hard round moveable body under my hand. Upon consideration of the case, I was of opinion it was a dropsy of the ovarium, and proposed tapping as the only measure from which relief could be hoped for under such circumstances. Being
weary

weary of the burthen, she readily complied, and the attending surgeon, with a common-sized trocar, drew off about five pints of a ropy fluid; no more could be obtained by pressure upon the abdomen, or movement of the canula. About this time her left leg and thigh became anasarious; and two months after, she desired to be tapped again, which was performed with a trocar of the largest bore in use. A gallon of fluid was obtained, of the same consistence with the first, and tinged with blood; she declared she would not undergo another operation, and survived this only eight days. A call to a patient at a distance prevented my being present at the opening of her body. The following account I had from one of the surgeons present.

Upon opening the abdomen, about nine quarts of a bloody fluid were discharged; the uterus was found in its natural, unimpregnated state. The left ovarium was found and perfect; the right ovarium appeared to be a large fleshy mass, which when cut out weighed nine pounds. It was of a roundish form, and had been pierced by the trocar at the last operation; it adhered to the neighbouring parts, and

and was full of large cysts, which contained a quantity of brownish, greenish, and other coloured glutinous matter. The liver, stomach, and intestines, were in a sound state.

II.

The History of a Case of Rheumatism cured by the Volatile Elixir of Guaiacum; communicated in a Letter from Dr Thomas Fowler, Physician at Stafford, to Dr Duncan.

SINCE the introduction of the liberal use of the tinctura guaiacina volatilis into practice in the treatment of rheumatisms, I have had several opportunities of seeing the good effects of this medicine in certain chronic cases, which you have justly observed to be of an intermediate nature, being neither wholly phlogistic nor atonic.

A remarkable instance of this sort, a lumbago, I have had under my care this month, and think it very similar to the strongly marked case of Sarah Mills, successfully treated with the same medicine, as related in your first volume of Medical cases. In acute cases I have