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A Short Account of some of the Principal Hospitals of France, Italy, Switzerland, and the Netherlands, with Remarks upon the Climate and Diseases of those Countries. By H. W. Carter, M. D. F. R. S. Ed. One of Dr Radcliffe's Travelling Fellows from the University of Oxford. 8vo. London, 1819. pp. 255. Underwood.

Some months since, when a work on the principal hospitals of Europe, by a travelling Fellow of Oxford, was announced among the forthcoming publications of the day, we anticipated great pleasure and instruction from the perusal. Perhaps this anticipation may have led us to form a less favourable opinion of the execution of Dr Carter's volume than to others it may appear to deserve. We readily confess that we have been disappointed,—and, in order that we may put our readers in possession of the nature and extent of our disappointment, we shall, in the course of this article, state what we conceive should be the plan of a book with a title such as that before us;—we shall then give some specimens of the present performance. We do not expect the scrupulous minuteness of Tenon, which no person can pretend to without local advantages entirely out of the reach of a casual visitor; nor do we look for those architectural details of Sylvester, which a professed engineer can alone give;—but we assuredly expect information more ample than we can easily procure from gazetteers and guides; excellent and useful performances in their own way, but, we humbly apprehend, more proper for perusal in an hotel or diligence than at second-hand in a medical book. A great proportion of Dr Carter's information savours strongly of these sources, and, indeed, he con-

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fesses, that his sketch of the climate and diseases of Lille is chiefly taken from the "Guide des Etrangers,"—"one of the best books of the kind," says the Doctor, "I have ever met with." The justice of this eulogium we shall not dispute; for we are convinced, that, from the specimens of these handy little vade mecums to be found in most large towns, together with some help from the published regulations of their hospitals, we could, with great facility, compose a good shewy octavo, which would not suffer in a comparison with Dr Carter's, without ever stirring from our own firesides.

Dr Carter had before him, if not perfect models, at least very respectable examples of medical travels in the works of Hunczovski, Loder, André, Flajani, and Dr Joseph Frank; in the journey to London of Philibert Roux, or the interesting sketches of Mr Cross. In their publications on the hospitals of Wilna, Munich, and Wurtzburg, we have had from Frank, Haeberl, and Thomann, as well as many natives of the countries through which Dr Carter travelled, valuable examples of succinct and detailed histories of individual establishments. Some of these publications are in every body's hands, others cannot be supposed to be unknown to a fellow of an English college, although they are the productions of foreigners. In truth, it is principally in the English language, that there is any deficiency of works upon the hospitals of other countries; and a publication which should completely fulfil the promises of our author's title-page, is yet a desideratum in British medical literature. This is the more to be lamented, because little is required in the composition, except ordinary attention; a faithful detail of what the writer may have seen himself; and some industry and discrimination in collecting or abridging from legitimate sources, those facts and statements for which he must trust to others. But we shall now specify some of the heads of information which we conceive such a work should embrace.

We should be grateful to that author who, after giving us a brief memoir on the medical topography of a place, should inform us of the site, size, and plan of its hospital, the number and accommodation of the wards, with the methods of ventilating, warming, and cleansing them; the plans for separating and classifying the patients, their numbers, and the measures pursued for obviating or checking contagious diseases among them; the materials and arrangement of their beds, bedding, and other articles of furniture; the means of collecting and conveying the sick to the hospital, with a statement of the obstacles or facilities of access to the building itself, as well as to its various apartments. We should expect an account of the

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plan, extent, and arrangement of the kitchens, baths, and wash-houses, and of their supply of cold and hot water, and steam, together with a detail of all contrivances for the abridgment of labour; the diminution of the consumption of fuel; and the increase of the nutritive quality of the food, or its fair, regular, and comfortable distribution. Knowing, as we do, how much the individual comforts of the sick, and the general good order of an hospital, depend on the water-closets or "latrines," we should attach great importance to the description of their site, size, and actual state, the extent of their supply of water, air, and light, and the measures adopted for removing the soil, or preventing the diffusion of unpleasant and unhealthy effluvia. To all this information on the immediate accommodations for the sick, we should wish to be added an account of the storehouses and offices of every description; the airing ground for the convalescents; the places of reception for the dead, with the modes of disposing of the bodies, &c. &c. We should expect also a statement of the rank, number, salaries, and duties of the various officers of the establishment, whether medical, surgical, or purveying, with an enumeration of the servants of different classes, their wages, the proportion which they bear to the sick, and the respective duties which they perform. In short, we should wish for information on every point subservient or preparatory to the grand objects of administering food, medicine, and surgical assistance.

We should then be prepared for a view of the mode of carrying on the medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and purveying duties, which would naturally lead us to the history of new or peculiar practices or operations; accounts of new remedies; details of the diet, ordinary and extraordinary, administration of wine, and other cordials, &c. The sources of revenue from which these wants are supplied should be specially enumerated, and, from all these premises, we should have no difficulty in entering into a view of the expences of the establishment. The nature of the records and annals kept at the hospital should be stated to us, and, from these, interesting information on comparative mortality, prevalence of disease, and peculiar epidemics, originating either from within or without, might be afforded; as well as satisfactory notices on every other point medical, statistical, or financial. If the hospital has a school or museum attached to it, or in its neighbourhood, we should expect some information upon these heads, which might be rendered more valuable by biographical sketches of such celebrated men, as either flourish at the time, or had formerly contributed to the celebrity of

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the institution. Finally, we conceive it to be the duty of every writer who gives an account of the state of medicine, or the medical establishments of any country, to consult every accessible source of information; and he will greatly enhance the value of his labours, if, to his account of each town, hospital, or school, he appends a catalogue of the books in which information may be found, and this whether he may have read them or not. Literary honesty will certainly require that he should candidly acknowledge where he may have largely borrowed; but no man need be ashamed of confessing, that he has heard and read of more books than are within his reach, and which he consequently never has, or perhaps never can peruse.

This is a rough and imperfect outline of what we should expect in a book professedly written on hospitals, but which, of course, the peculiar views, opportunities, or abilities of the author, would lead him to fill up or curtail, according to circumstances. As a basis, however, we conceive that this plan, under some modification or other, is indispensable towards affording really useful information on the subject. That it is far from impracticable, or even peculiarly difficult in the execution, we know; since, under the excellent discipline now established in our military hospitals, every surgeon of a regiment throughout the empire is called upon for a document somewhat of this nature, on each change of quarters; documents which are lodged among the records of the army medical department, and may hereafter furnish invaluable materials to the profession at large.

We should now inquire how far Dr Carter has acted upon this or any other plan, which might have served to embody for us useful information on the state of the hospitals in the various parts of Europe in which he has travelled. After minutely examining his work, we confess our inability to discover the precise plan upon which he has composed it:—and, indeed, we much doubt whether he has adopted any; for his notices are singularly vague, irregular, and disjointed:—they are apparently copied at random from his pocket-book, or hastily extracted from his travelling directory, with very little pains in the selection. So long, however, as we are offered information, we are willing to accept it, from whatever source it may be derived, but our facility, in this respect, shall not induce us to surrender our privilege of examining its value.

In the first place, we have to complain of the extreme shortness of Dr Carter's articles. In his table of contents, we are promised information on the hospitals of Paris, Lyons, Geneva, Lausanne, Berne, Nice, Turin, Milan, Padua, Florence, Pisa, Leghorn,

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Rome, Naples, Sicily, Lisbon, Lille, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Amsterdam, and Leyden. We had some forebodings, that a book of the size of Dr Carter's (pp. 255) could not contain all the interesting matter that the bare mention of some of these places suggested; but, on further examination, we became satisfied, that, in his mode of dispatching business, he might have added to his catalogue all the hospital establishments in the German and Russian empires, together with those of the minor states, without exceeding the bounds of a moderate octavo. To some of the places enumerated, and those too among the most important, as Milan, Pisa, and Padua, he allows a page, a page and a half, or three pages; some he dismisses in fourteen lines—Lausanne, for example;—there are others, on the hospitals of which he scarcely expends as many words;—and others, again, as those of Naples, where he candidly confesses to us that he has nothing whatever to say.

Paris, one would suppose, might have furnished materials for something interesting; and, as every thing connected with its medical establishments is open to visitors, or has been described over and over again, if the Doctor had nothing original, he might surely have gleaned something from the works or the conversation of others. In Paris, or its immediate vicinity, there are 18 or 19 hospitals; beside these, there is L'Ecole de Santé, founded for the education of hospital surgeons, especially for the army and navy; L'Ecole de Medecine, the only establishment in Paris for granting degrees in medicine and surgery; and L'Ecole de Pharmacie, for the education of apothecaries: there is also the Jardin des Plantes, the College de France, and many other literary institutions, collections, and museums, connected with the study of medicine, an account of which would profitably and amply fill two volumes;—Dr Carter, with characteristic brevity, finishes all he has to say of the French metropolis in a little more than two sheets. He mentions only L'Hotel Dieu, La Charite, La Salpetriere, and some of the Maisons de Santé kept by private practitioners for lunatics and other patients who are in circumstances to pay for their accommodation; and of the principal school of physic, "L'Ecole de Medecine," his communications are nearly as laconic, and not more instructive, than we should expect from a good modern gazetteer. To those who have read Tenon on the Hospitals of Paris, as they stood before the Revolution, or the "Rapports faits au conseil general des Hospices civiles de Paris," about three years ago, or the Sketches of Mr Cross, published in our own country, the scantiness of information to be derived from the present author will appear not only provoking, but altogether unaccountable.

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Prepared as we were for meagre details by his account of Paris, we were severely disappointed when we turned to the chapter on Milan. Milan, which contains one of the largest and most splendid hospitals in Europe, and which boasts of several eminent practitioners, remarkable for their attainments and their industry, is hurried over in three scanty pages. Few physicians conversant in the literature of other countries are ignorant of the name of Locatelli, the warm patron of blood-letting in fever; or of Giannini, the respectable advocate for the employment of cold water in certain stages of the same disease; or of Sacco, the apostle of vaccination in Italy, and who had very nearly been its martyr also.* Three more interesting subjects can scarcely be suggested to the British physician, but Dr Carter never mentions, nor even hints at them. It struck us also as not a little singular, that while Dr C. was at Milan, only a drive of twenty miles from Pavia, he should not have given some account of that far famed seat of learning, where Volta, Scopoli, Spallanzani, Scarpa, and other celebrated men, have so ardently exerted themselves for the benefit of science in general, and of medicine and surgery in particular. He either did not visit that city, or found nothing interesting, for he has not even mentioned it. Neither does he name Bologna, through which he must have passed, if he travelled between Florence and Padua.

The account of Pisa is comprised in two pages; it would take up a greater space to give a bare enumeration of his omissions under that head, than he has bestowed upon the entire article.

On Padua,—"alas for Padua,"—he expends fifty lines. Now we shall not quarrel with Dr C. for not having described the botanic garden, the most remarkable in Italy; nor for having left unnoticed that school of anatomy,—interesting to every man who recollects, that it was there the illustrious Morgagni performed many of those dissections which will hand down his name to posterity, as one of the most indefatigable contributors to our profession; still less shall we accuse him for omitting any hint of the fine series of dissected mollusca of the Adriatic Sea, and other objects of natural history to be met with there,—because neither botany, anatomy, nor zoology, form any part of the subjects mentioned in his title-page. But when

* He was nearly stoned to death by the mob in one of his excursions for the promotion of vaccination.

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Dr Carter, in describing the hospital, employs merely the three words, "large and commodious," and when he does not give even one syllable on the climate or diseases,—we leave it to his own decision, whether we have not some right to complain of a breach of promise. There are two works, each nearly as large as Dr Carter's, written on the topography and regulation of this hospital, by Comparetti; and there is a series of clinical reports from the pens of Brera and Dall' Oste, embracing almost every thing worth knowing, both medical and financial. Had our author given us a good abridgment of either, or even if he had given the titles of the works in a note, we should have been in some degree satisfied; but he has not done this, and we are left to gather our information as we may. Fortunately for those interested in the subject, there is no want of materials. *

We turned from the venerable universities of Italy to that of Leyden, with our hopes greatly depressed, and, accordingly, we found, that somewhat more than the space allotted to Milan serves to convey to us all the information concerning that respected seat of learning, where, for so long a period, Boerhaave gave laws to physic. The state of the civil and military hospitals; the clinical lectures; the anatomical museum and theatre; the museum of natural history; and the noble botanic garden, rich in the plants of various countries, are all treated of within the compass of four pages. What chiefly attracted the Doctor's attention in the latter were "two trees planted by Boerhaave." This may possibly have been the case; but to botanists some intelligence of the palm raised from seed in the open air, by the celebrated Clusius, would have been much more interesting. If in existence, it must now be upwards of two hundred years old. This very tree, and the pot in which it grows, are figured by Boerhaave in the frontispiece to his index of the Leyden Garden, as has been remarked by Sir J. E. Smith, in his very interesting Tour on the Continent,—a work which we can with great confidence recommend to future medical and botanical travellers. †

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* We subjoin the titles of the above named works. Saggio della Scuola Clinica nello Spedale di Padova. Riscontro Clinico nel nuovo Spedale. Regolamenti Medico-Pratici di Andrea Comparetti, Padova, 1793 and 1799. Prospetto Clinico dell' anno scolastico, 1815-16, dal V. L. Brera, compilato dal Pietro Dall' Oste, Padova 1816. This work is continued. We have the reports down to 1817. There are also by Brera, the Prospetti Clinici di sei anni scolastici col Riassunto Sessenale, from 1810 to 1815 inclusive. Padova, 1816.

† A Sketch of a Tour on the Continent, by James Edward Smith, M. D. F.R.S. 3 vols. 8vo. Vid. Vol. I, p. 11. Some of his remarks on medical subjects

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Next to the dwarfish brevity of his articles, we have to complain of the want of specific information on points of considerable interest. Thus, he states to us in general terms, that the wards of one hospital are commodious and well ventilated, and that the rules of another are good; but he never gives particulars, nor does he define what he understands by good accommodations or good regulations. Many persons imagine, provided a ward has abundance of windows, and these windows are kept open, that it is well ventilated. We, on the contrary, understand by good ventilation, that disposition of the windows which ensures a speedy exit to the heated and vitiated air, and a constant and uniform admission of the fresh and uncontaminated atmosphere, with the least possible exposure of the sick to currents. This is insured in the most simple way, by windows or air holes opening at both the upper and lower parts of the wards, close to the ceiling and the floors. Some people imagine, that to rub the pewter utensils, until they shine like silver, and then to range them in military array, to be looked at, but not to be used, implies the very acme of cleanliness and good order. We, however, conceive, that to keep every article in its own place, appropriated to its own purpose, and free from every thing offensive or disgusting, is quite a sufficient proof of neatness and good order in acute wards. In convalescent wards, indeed, the patients may be advantageously employed in various works subservient to neatness, and even to show.

When Dr Carter mentions particulars, it is often done in such a manner as to excite our curiosity, without at all contributing to its gratification. Thus, he tells us, that in the kitchen of the hospital of St John, at Turin, "there were several ingenious contrivances for saving time and labour, and rendering fewer servants necessary." We were much pleased with this, and we were in expectation of having some account of these useful inventions. All that we hear of them further is, "that one of them was for raising provisions into the wards, and it was certainly calculated to save a good deal of trouble."

But while he is so provokingly barren on subjects of real importance, he finds room for such pieces of intelligence as the following. "The hospital of Santa Maria Nuova, at Florence, was built by Folco Portimari in the year 1287. The façade

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are most pertinent, and those on the advantages of medical travelling particularly so. Vol. III. p. 178.

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was commenced by Buontalenti, a celebrated architect, in 1611, and finished by Giulio Parigi." In the same strain, we are informed, that "The Santo Spirito at Rome was founded with the church in 1195, and has been repaired and enlarged by several Popes, especially by Alexander the 7th, Benedict the 14th, and Pius the 6th. It is situated in that part of Rome beyond the Tiber, which has received the name of Citta Leonina, from its having been surrounded by a wall by Leo 4th." Did all this serve as preface to any thing in the shape of medical information, its inanity would in some degree be redeemed; but, alas! it only ekes out the page, without enhancing its value. In the two cases now before us, it is inexcusable, because a voluminous account of the hospital of Santa Maria, and St Bonifacio, has been published, from which surely might have been extracted, details of much more importance than the names of the different architects.* In the case of Rome, no one is ignorant of the topographical descriptions of Baglivi and Lancisi; and there is a most interesting modern work published by De Matthæis, giving an account of the clinical school and hospital of Santo Spirito. No less than three papers on the medical topography of Lisle are now before us,† and doubtless many more are extant, but Dr Carter prefers the "Guide des Etrangers." He takes his account of the climate and diseases from it, and, accordingly, among other matters of equal value, we are favoured with the very important intelligence, that, in addition to other good things, "the country people about Lisle are in the habit of eating bread and butter, and new cheese, early in the morning, and between dinner and supper," &c. &c.

Another very striking deficiency is the neglect of useful dates and references. We are left in uncertainty as to the periods at which several of his visits were made. He was at Paris in 1816, at Geneva, and in some parts of Italy, between 1814 and 1818, and in Portugal in 1812; but we are obliged to guess at what period he visited, or how long he remained in other places. His references to books, from which we might draw more ample information, are remarkably scanty, and when they are mentioned, it is not in a satisfactory manner. Thus, for instance, under the article Lisbon, he refers to a memoir of Dr Bacta on the epidemic fever of 1810-11, but where to be found, or

* Regolamenti dei regi spedali di Santa Maria nuova e St Bonifacio, di Marco Covoni Girolamo. 4to, Firenz, 1789. 416 pages.

† Hautesierck, Recueil des Observations, Tom. I. De Horne, Journal de Medecine Militaire, Tom. IV. Journal de Medecine, Tom. VII.

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whether in the English or Portuguese languages, he does not tell us.

But we are tired of finding general faults; we shall, therefore, examine some of the individual articles. Wherever we can glean any thing like useful information or suggestion, we shall give full credit to the author, and when we can supply either upon our own authority, we shall do it to make some amends to our readers. Before commencing this course, however, we should inform them, that the present work was not intended as a separate one, but was meant to be incorporated with a larger and more general publication; indeed, the author, in his preface, expresses his doubts of the fitness of his observations to meet the public eye as an independent volume,—doubts which entirely coincide with our deliberate opinion.

We are sorry to find, by Dr C.'s remarks on Geneva, that the hospital of that intellectual city is in debt, but how contracted we know not, although nothing could have been more easy than to procure, from the liberal physicians who attend it, copies of the annual abstracts of receipt and expenditure, which are published for the information of the inhabitants. In 1815, Dr C. tells us, that the deficit was nearly 47,000 florins; in 1816, by a rise in the rents of houses, &c. belonging to the hospital, the deficiency was not quite 18,000; in that year, the revenue was L. 11,119 Sterling. We must not suppose that the revenue is all spent on the patients in the house; the out-patients also are supplied with medicine and money, and a trifling salary is paid to the medical officers, which our author states at about L. 20. The committee for conducting the affairs of the hospital, he tells us, consists of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and fifteen members. The medical establishment consists of one physician and one surgeon for the house, and two physicians and one surgeon for the town patients. The hospital can contain 120 patients, (besides soldiers.) The average number in the house is about 80; the disbursements for the house in 1816 were 175,881 florins; while for the out-patients there were expended 352,550. The hospital he states to be clean and well ventilated. We understand, however, that the woollen curtains, which formerly were very common in hospitals, still remain to some of the beds at Geneva, which must, in such a situation, be a serious impediment to ventilation and cleanliness.

Dr C. mentions, in terms of just commendation, the soup-kitchens established during the winter of 1817, but, as usual, he omits particulars. Our readers who feel an interest in such charitable institutions, will find an account of that at Geneva, in a paper by Dr De Roches, " Sur l'etablissement de soupes à la

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Rumford," in the Bibliotheque Universelle, Tom. IV. for 1817. Besides these soup-kitchens, there were two other establishments at Geneva, for the extraction of the nutritive part of bones. In one, under the direction of the ladies, the bones were simply boiled, and they furnished a jelly nutritive and portable, in so much as to be sent to the destitute poor of Savoy. The same bones were treated with dilute muriatic acid at another establishment under the direction of one of the learned societies; the phosphate of lime was dissolved; and the gelatine which was left behind was washed, sliced, and dried for home consumption, and for exportation to the neighbouring poor. Bones properly bruised were also delivered to them, and when boiled with or without herbs, they formed a good soup, and were employed even a second time for that purpose. Great praise appears to be due to Baron Eichthal of Munich for his investigations on the gelatine obtainable from bones, by boiling in a vessel on the principle of Papin's digester, and for his applying those substances which had hitherto been rejected as useless, to the furnishing an wholesome article of food to man. From his calculations, upwards of 53,000 quintals of bone were annually thrown away, or served as food to the dogs of Munich. From this quantity, there might have been furnished nearly 10,000 quintals of jelly, and 2000 of animal oil, worth, on a rough calculation, upwards of a million of florins. On a corrected calculation, it appears that 20,944 human beings could be furnished with one meal a day for an entire year, on 2300 quintals of gelatine. The establishment of Geneva seems to have owed some valuable hints to Baron Eichthal. An ingenious physician of Geneva, Dr Gosse, junior, made about this period some very interesting observations on the wild plants of Switzerland, which may be used as aliment. We cannot afford room to enlarge upon them, but we may observe, that plants hitherto supposed noxious, or medicinal only, as Colchicum autumnale, and Gentiana lutea, furnish a considerable proportion of alimentary matter under the treatment proposed by him.*

Dr Carter mentions the Lunatic Hospital of Geneva, and animadverts upon the injudicious management of the patients. It gives us much pleasure to be able to state, that a scientific friend of ours, a native of that city, is now preparing materials which may lead to the amelioration of establishments of this description.

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* Bibliotheque Universelle, Tom. V. 1817. p. 65 and 67.

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Our author mentions a division of duties among the managing committee of the hospital, which strikes us as worthy of imitation; one undertakes the inspection of the linen, one of the clothes, &c.; and we suppose others of the food, &c. &c. We shall take the liberty of offering in this place some remarks upon two very important points of hospital arrangement, the linen and the food. Many persons unaccustomed to hospitals are apt to mistake blemishes, or indelible stains in the linen, for actual filth. In surgical wards, caustic is always productive of indelible stains; and where sores are washed by coloured vegetable tinctures or decoctions, as of bark for instance, the subsequent application of ointments, containing earthy or metallic salts, will act as mordaunts, and fix the colouring matter on the linen. Oils, mixed with earths or metallic matters, leave a stain most difficult to remove. Saturnine solutions, when dry, leave an ugly stain, almost impenetrable to water. Animal fluids, or the serum discharged from a blister, when dried on the linen, which, from the heat of the body, they very soon do, leave stains extremely difficult to get rid of. Thus, if the most scrupulously neat person scratches an accidental vesication through the stocking, a stain of a very refractory nature is left to mark the spot. Immediate immersion in cold water in some cases prevents this, but there is something still left for chemistry to determine on the subject of stains; some are indelibly fixed by cold water, and some by immersion in it are immediately removed; in some familiar instances one stain removes another; white wine, for instance, will remove the stain of Port; and salt will fix the stain of one wine, but, if thrown immediately on, will prevent the mark of another. Chaptal has given a process adopted at the Hotel Dieu for removing the old stains of animal matter. * We are informed that the following process is employed for that purpose at Guy's Hospital. The linen is first washed and boiled; the stains are then rubbed with soft soap and pearl ashes, and the article is tightly rolled up; it is kept thus rolled for a short time, and then it undergoes a thorough washing.

We have already alluded to the employment of bones, and we may mention, by the bye, that some of the nicest jellies of Paris and London are now prepared from them by the process with diluted muriatic acid. Calvi had long ago indicated the utility of employing bones in the preparation of soups for hospitals

* Annales de Chimie, Tom. XXXVIII. p. 291; vide also Chaptal's Chemistry, applied to Arts and Manufactures, Vol. III. p. 103.

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by the adoption of Papin's digester; * and assuredly nothing can be more desirable than to procure wholesome food at a moderate rate. A special apparatus, however, is necessary for many of these processes, but we have seen a very simple preparation of a common article of food conduce much to its nutritive powers; it is employed in the military hospitals in Ireland, and consists in steeping all the oatmeal used in the hospital in cold water for some hours before subjecting it to heat. In these hospitals, also, thirteen ounces of raw beef, bone included, are allowed to produce half a pound of boiled beef without bone; a liberal allowance, but a necessary one, considering the loss by boiling. It would be well if the physician of an hospital would recollect this circumstance when he prescribes, and specify whether he means his patient to have the weight of meat which he orders, in its raw or its cooked state.

In some foreign hospitals there exist singular abuses on the subject of food. We recollect visiting the great hospital of San Juan de Dios at Cadiz some years since. On certain days, large trays of provisions of all kinds were sent in from rich families, and other charitable inhabitants of the city; on other days, the food has appeared to us extremely scanty, and too much left to the disposal of the servants of the hospital. We strongly suspect that that class of men, who, according to Le Sage, "grow rich by managing the affairs of the poor," is not yet extinct in the dominions of the Spanish monarch. At Milan, also, the hospital is on certain days crowded with the friends of the sick, who bring them all kinds of food, a practice which the physicians loudly complain of. At Vienna, there is a sort of tavern in the general hospital, ostensibly for the accommodation of the pupils, but where a patient, who can procure money, can doubtless, in spite of every regulation, procure improper food, and liquor also. Some foreign hospitals have butcheries attached to them. In an economical point of view, this may sometimes be desirable, but we confess we prefer the mode of getting in the meat from a distant slaughter-house.

Of the hospital of Berne we are told by our author that it is one of the best managed he ever saw, but his description of it is, nevertheless, one of the shortest in his book. By his account, we would be led to suppose that there was but one hospital at Berne;—we can only speak of Berne as it was in 1806;

* Calvi, De Medicamentis pro Nosocomiis et jusculis parandis. Paris, 1764. 4to. The works of Parmentier and Count Rumford are well worth consulting on the subject of food.

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—then, and we believe now, there were five hospitals: two in the town, and three at the distance of a mile and a half; one for lunatics, one for venereal patients, and one for incurables. Under the head Medical Intelligence, in our number for April 1809, Vol. V. p. 253, will be found a short, but not uninteresting sketch of these hospitals.

The account of Nice is one of the longest in the book, and contains some approximations to medical information, especially on the use of digitalis in consumption. It is carried to the enormous extent of scruple doses of the powder daily; and hourly doses of the infusion, to the quantity of half an ounce, are not unusual. Dr C. supposes that the digitalis of Nice is less powerful than that of Britain. Before we can admit the justice of this explanation, we would wish to ascertain the period at which the plant was gathered, the state of the leaves, mode of preparation, and whether any other article be administered along with it, or about the same period, which possibly may have the effect of counteracting its activity. We are the more anxious on this point, because Dr C. mentions in the same article, that, where cinchona bark has failed in the removal of intermittent, a combination of that medicine with the tartrate of antimony has been found efficacious. Now, we need scarcely remind our readers, that a decomposition takes place in this most unchemical mixture; and possibly the digitalis also may be decomposed by some unnoticed adjunct.

At Turin, the bread is prepared in a bakehouse attached to the establishment. To this the same objection of producing fetor and filth does not apply as to the butchery; though, on the whole, it is perhaps better to procure it out of the house. The government of the hospital of St John is confided to equal numbers of clergy and laymen, three of each; it can contain 550 patients. The medical establishment is six physicians, at a salary of between 200 and 300 franks per annum; two house physicians, and two surgeons. The servants are foundlings, and are paid eight or ten franks a month for the men, and six for the women, beside their clothing, lodging, and boarding. The revenues are 70,000 francs a year; the expence of each patient about a franc (10d.) a day. We have no account of the other hospitals, nor of the museum; indeed, our author does not even mention the latter, although one of the finest in Italy, under the direction of Professor Bonelli.

Dr Carter mentions what, indeed, could scarcely have escaped notice, that Padua, like the other universities of Italy, is falling into decay. This, he hints, is in some measure owing to the Austrian government. "Whether the House of

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Austria adopts the best means to promote the happiness and dignity of its Italian dominions, is, indeed, a question which, I believe, (says Dr C.) both the natives of that country, and most travellers, will be inclined to answer in the negative." Now, the plain fact is, that the majority of scientific men in Italy use no delicacy in expressing their opinions on the subject, and are loud in their execrations of their present rulers. Anatomy, the basis of medical science, is ruined at Padua. The period of study, which was formerly indispensable, was three academic years; but the Austrians have reduced this period to one session of six months. The inevitable consequence of this injudicious measure is, that the study of anatomy has received a mortal blow; and it requires no great prophetic skill to foresee that pathology and therapeutics will shortly, if they do not even now, feel its deadly effects. To accelerate this deplorable event, the Austrian government has displaced several of the professors for various causes, principally free-masonry, or abolished their chairs, while they have, at the same time, diminished the salaries of those they have left. To crown all, nothing can be published in Italy, were it only a new proposal for phlebotomy, without being sent to Vienna, to undergo the examination of a censor, and receive his "Imprimatur." The measures and the habits of the Austrians furnish their sensitive and epigrammatic subjects with constant matter of discontent and ridicule. The Italian literati consider, or affect to consider, that the sun of science has set upon their universities since the Restoration. Hence, in allusion to some indulgences in food to which the German soldiers are said to be addicted, it was lately remarked by one of the professors, "Comment voulez-vous que des hommes qui mangent les chandelles, apportent des lumières?"

At Florence, the mortality is high in the hospital of Santa Maria Nuova. It is said to be about ten per cent.; "but I hope," adds the Doctor, "that this statement is not perfectly correct." We have not the smallest doubt that humanity has prompted this hope, but we apprehend that humanity will be found to have less to do with this subject than is generally supposed. The more severe the diseases, and the more violent the injuries, the greater will the mortality be of course; but, at the same time, it is evident that a greater mass of human misery is selected for alleviation. Before we make comparisons of the relative mortality of different hospitals, we should be well informed of the nature of the cases received into them. The assertion, "that the greater the mortality, the more useful the hospital," must obviously be taken under great limitations, and excluding altogether those hospitals where the deaths have been

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occasioned by ignorance, neglect, or gross mal-administration, causes which we trust do not exist in any European establishment. In some of our own best hospitals we believe the mortality to be highest; and, at the Hotel Dieu, the mortality always kept pace with the improvements, and the extension of its real benefits. Between the years 9 and 11 of the republic, when the ameliorations were progressive, the mortality increased from one in seven to one in six, and in the early part of the latter year to one in four. The principle which this fact illustrates has been held by some eminent and humane physicians,—by Frank in Germany, and by Burserius in Italy. Upon the whole, numerous preliminary considerations are required, before an opinion can fairly be pronounced upon the mortality of any hospital, but our limits will not admit of discussing them here; we shall, therefore, turn to Dr Carter.

Whoever wishes for an account of the Museum of Florence need not open the present publication. Two pages, the matter of which makes no amends for the trouble of turning them over, contain the whole. Dr Carter tells us, that artists are at present employed upon a series of wax casts, illustrative of comparative anatomy. Some preparations of the brain have been mentioned to us as surprising specimens of the beauty and correctness of these preparations. We trust that the artists are better paid now than they formerly were. Under the old government, their allowance was so miserably small for themselves and their families, that famine and despair drove some of them to suicide. The present government, we are also informed, has abolished the professorships attached to the museum by the French. The result must be injurious, if not absolutely destructive, to that splendid collection.

Dr Carter is silent on the anatomical theatre, where some of Mascagni's celebrated preparations are still to be seen, although, as might have been expected from the hurried way in which they were prepared, in a decayed state. The present surgeon of Napoleon Bonaparte, Antomarchi, is preparing a splendid work on the subject, as an amusement for his leisure hours at St Helena. Dr Carter only mentions the hospitals of St Bonifacio and Santa Maria Nuova; he does not give us any account of an hospital which, we believe, was opened for fever cases some time ago, opposite the former. We should have much wished to know the rules and regulations adopted for it, and to have an opportunity of comparing them with those of similar establishments in England, and with our own at the Royal Infirmary and Queensberry House.

Dr Carter makes no mention of the kitchen of the hospital at

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Florence, although it merits every attention, from the ingenuity with which it is fitted up, and for the saving of fuel which is produced by the structure of its grates. The flame is confined in an iron chamber, its intensity is moderated by dampers, and it is directed laterally round the pots, several of which it is made to heat at the same time, at an expence of only one third the quantity of fuel employed in ordinary kitchens. This invention is due to a Florentine, whose name we lament that we do not now recollect. It has been in use for several years, both at Florence and Sienna, (where also the chemical laboratory is fitted up on the same plan,) and it has certainly long preceded, if it did not suggest many of the inventions of more modern times. In the preparation of every species of food wherein vegetable and farinaceous matters are employed, which, by their gravity, fall to the bottom of the boiler, great risk is incurred, if the flame directly strikes upon that point, of producing an empyreumatic flavour by the burning of these matters. To prevent this, Count Rumford used a double bottomed boiler. In the common boiler, constant stirring becomes necessary, during which operation the steam escapes, carrying off with it much heat, and often diffusing a very faint and sickly smell throughout the hospital, besides affording a frequent opportunity to the servants of abstracting the contents, under the pretence of preserving them, a practice which seems to come peculiarly under the well known culinary proverb, "That too many cooks spoil the broth." But when the heat does not directly affect the bottom of the boiler, and the vegetables, &c. lie below the level of the flame, they are equally well boiled; the necessity of stirring is obviated; the broth may be placed under lock and key, and all chance of burning is effectually prevented. Dr Hope has fitted up the boilers in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on this very important principle.

Our author mentions the establishment for lunatics; and states, that, in one of the corridors, allotted for the men, there was a very bad smell, which seemed to argue some neglect in removing offensive matters from the cells. Dr Carter has omitted to mention the structure of these cells. They have each a privy within them, (as we find by notes taken on the spot,) a great nuisance, in our opinion, for such a place, except, possibly, for the fatuous or the furious, who must necessarily be confined. For the former unfortunate class of beings, however, the contrivance at Antwerp appears to us much better, where the torpid idiots are seated and secured to a chaise percé.

We cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of mentioning in this place the admirable contrivance of Mr Sylvester at the Derby Go-

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neral Hospital, for obviating the foul effluvia of the water-closets of that house. The particulars would be unintelligible without a plan, for which we must refer to his most ingenious work.* The seat, and the mode of supplying water, are on the same principles as in Bramah's ordinary apparatus; but the great superiority of Mr Sylvester's plan is, that the water-closets are freed from their fetor, without the least care of the person using them. On his entrance, he fills them with fresh air, while, by the motion of the door, which is rendered air-tight, the foul air is forced off through the roof. On his shutting the door, fresh air is left behind. Every one knows what nuisances these closets are when, from ignorance or neglect, any of the tubes are filled up with dirt or rags; or when, from frequent friction, or from chemical decomposition, occasioned by the action of the gases evolved from the feces, the metallic materials of the pans, or the wires communicating with the cisterns, have been injured. Every attempt, therefore, to improve them is an object of primary importance in an hospital. In the Derby Hospital just mentioned, the ingenuity of Mr Sylvester has been extended to almost all the other branches of domestic economy; and, by proper management, heated air and steam are made subservient to the important purposes of cooking, washing, drying, &c.

It is with great pleasure we can inform such of our readers as may have received a part of their medical education in our own Royal Infirmary, that, under the able management and direction of our ingenious Professor of Chemistry, Dr Hope, the agency of steam and heated air has been called into action in the kitchen, wash-house, and drying-room of that building, as far as its original structure will at all permit.

Our author appears to have been twice at Rome; in 1814-15, and in the spring of 1818. We have in vain looked in his work for information on the subject of the new clinical school instituted by Pope Pius VII. There lies before us, however, the first volume of the work already alluded to, from which we are furnished with some particulars of this institution.† It appears that funds were wanting wherewith to found a new hospital, and therefore four wards of the Santo Spirito were given up for the purposes of the new establishment, while, at the same time, a surgical clinical school was founded in a part of the Hospital of St James for incurables, and

* Philosophy of Domestic Economy, &c. By C. Sylvester, Engineer. 4to. Nottingham, 1819.

† Ratio Instituti Clinici Romani a primo ejus exordio ad Kal. Septembris 1816. Exposita a J de Matthæis. Romæ, 1816.

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placed under the charge of Joseph Sisco. The ordinary physicians to the medical clinical school are Joseph Tagliabo and Joseph de Matthæis, who take the duty alternately for three months. Falcioni was assistant physician, and Flajani is assistant surgeon, and especially charged with the department of morbid anatomy. There are also two consulting physicians, Lupi and Morichini,—the only two medical men of Rome, by the bye, whose names are mentioned by Dr Carter. The name of the latter is familiar to English philosophers by his experiments on the magnetising power of the violet rays. The second volume of the above work has not reached us; it is to be edited by Tagliabo. The part already published is by De Matthæis, and contains an account of the clinical establishment of Santo Spirito, and a topographical account of Rome, together with some meteorological tables; tabular specimens of the practice; a table of admissions, discharges, and deaths; and a table of the hospital diet. The admissions from November 1815 to August 1816 were 227; the deaths for the same period, 24. The most fatal disease was pneumonia; six patients having died out of thirty affected with it. The most frequent forms of disease were intermittents and rheumatism; and we were sorry to see no fewer than nine cases of variola. Of syphilis three cases only were admitted.

The diet in this hospital will appear singular to the English physician. There are no less than seven different rates. The lowest is beef-broth ℥8, with the yolk of an egg, morning and evening. The full diet consists of no more than six ounces of bread, ten drams of gruel, three ounces of beef, and six of wine, morning and evening. The weight of the gruel is determined by that of the raw farinaceous material, which is varied daily. Extra allowance of bread, wine, egg, &c. are left to the discretion of the prescribing physician. The patients, on the day before their discharge, receive a double quantity of wine; they are then transferred in a wheel carriage to a convalescent hospital, where they are kept for three days before their final dismissal.

We by no means wish to recommend complicated or parsimonious systems of diet; but we cannot avoid expressing our conviction, that our British hospital dietary is too high in many instances, and that a most serious improvement might be made, both in a medical and financial point of view, by following the example of some foreign hospitals in their diet for acute cases. We may take some future opportunity of offering to our readers, comparative views of the established dietaries in some of the principal hospitals of England and the Continent; and we are much mistaken if we cannot prove that the diet in many

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foreign hospitals is much better adapted to medical purposes than in our own, and without being nearly equal in expence.

The articles Leghorn and Naples, in addition to those already adverted to, close the Italian division of Dr Carter's work. Of Leghorn he speaks in high general terms of praise. It appears, from his account, that at the hospital for women, the patients who are able to work are obliged to spin, sew, &c. Half the produce of their labour goes to the establishment, and half to themselves, provided the work has been done for a private individual, but if for the hospital, they only receive one third. This plan he suggests for consideration in England. He mentions nothing of the hospitals of Naples. Indeed, twenty lines contain all he says in the whole article, but we take advantage of the opportunity of informing our readers, that we understand a new mode of employing mercury is just now in vogue at Naples. Every one recollects the unfortunate Dr Cirillo's employment of the saline preparations in ointment; his chief application was the corrosive sublimate applied to the soles of the feet; and it is stated by those who have used it to be very rapidly absorbed. Mr Torreillbe, of Strasburgh, proposed, in the year 1810, to rub the common ointment into the glans and prepuce in men, and to the labia in women. The absorption from these surfaces is astonishingly quick, and Mr Torreillhe conceives that he gains a great advantage, *by pursuing the enemy on the direct route.* In the new Neapolitan mode, a portion of ointment is placed in the axilla, whence, without any friction whatever, it is rapidly taken up into the constitution, according to the accounts we have received. We had prepared some few hints on Dr Quadris' new mode of treating bronchocele by seton, but as we can now refer to a full account of it by Dr Somerville, principal inspector of military hospitals, in the lately published volume (10th) of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, we shall not enlarge on the subject. We may mention, however, as an article of medical news, that the veteran Cotugno is still alive at Naples, and meditating another professional publication.

The countries or hospitals which have been occupied by our armies, are more dwelt on by Dr Carter, than those upon which we were more anxious for intelligence; and, accordingly, we find, that Sicily, Lisbon, Holland, and the Netherlands, are spoken of somewhat more diffusely than other places; indeed, more than half his volume is dedicated to them.

We find nothing upon which we shall detain our readers in the article on Sicily, which is now so well known, by means of the work of the late army physician, Irvine.

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Under the head Lisbon, he speaks in succession of its hospitals, the state of medicine, the climate and the diseases. We shall not follow him on these well known subjects. He bears testimony to the immense improvements effected in the Portuguese hospitals, by the surgeons of the British army, and he speaks of those appropriated to the British themselves in terms of due praise. The hospital occupied by the royal artillery he characterizes as a model of neatness and good order, and he might, with equal justice, have extended the same eulogium to those occupied by every other branch of the service. We have visited them all, and we might compose an entire memoir on what we saw and what we thought; but the best practical illustration that we can give of the zeal and intelligence which directed the medical department of the Peninsular army, is the following fact. During the ten months from the siege of Burgos to the battle of Vittoria inclusive, the total sick and wounded which passed through the hospitals was 95,348. By the unremitting and well-directed exertions of Sir James M'Grigor, and the medical staff under his orders, the army took the field preparatory to the battle, with a sick list under 5000! For twenty successive days it marched towards the enemy, and in less than one month after it had defeated them, it mustered within *thirty men* as strong as before the action; *and this too without reinforcements from England!!** Whether the illustrious captain who led this favoured army, experienced in his own person the skill of his physicians, or whether, like the Roman conqueror,

"He had a fever when he was in Spain," †

we know not; but of this we are convinced, that no general, either of modern or ancient times, ever owed so much to those who conducted the medical concerns of his troops.

The hospitals of Leyden, Antwerp, Ghent, and Brussels, are spoken of by Dr Carter in terms of high praise. From our own knowledge we can corroborate his general testimony, and did our limits permit, we could furnish many interesting particulars, which have altogether escaped his attention.

His account of the clinical lectures at Ghent is the best thing in his book, and as we have so frequently had occasion to find fault, it is but fair that we should let Dr Carter speak for himself, where, in our opinion, he does it to any advantage.

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* See Guthrie on Gunshot Wounds, Preface. The ranks were recruited by convalescents.

† Julius Cæsar, *Act 1st, Scene 2d.*

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"It is chiefly on account of the clinical lectures, that I have said any thing about this hospital. They are given every morning from eight to nine o'clock. How useful and instructive they are I can testify from experience, very short experience indeed, but such as was sufficient to enable me to appreciate their advantages, and to make me lament that they are not more attended to in our great hospitals at home. The patients for these lectures, who are selected out of the great mass, are distributed among such of the pupils as are sufficiently advanced to be able to examine them properly, and to prescribe for them in the absence of the physician. When the professor visits them, the several pupils are expected to give a clear account of the state of their patients, of the symptoms, &c. Their mistakes are corrected by the professor; and when I was at the hospital, he corrected them in so clear and decisive, yet, at the same time, so mild a manner; he so kindly commended those who had been assiduous, and so good naturedly rebuked those who had been remiss, that I am sure his pupils must be attached to him, and, if they are good for any thing, must profit by his instructions. *

"After each pupil had described the case assigned to him, and had mentioned what treatment he had adopted, the professor gave his sentiments upon it at some length, if he considered it an important one; in short, gave a real clinical lecture. At the time these notes were written, there happened to be some interesting cases in the hospital, for a fever, of a typhoid type, was prevailing epidemically in the town. I observed two or three recent cases, but the majority of those which I saw were convalescent. The treatment appeared to have been judicious and successful. Topical blood-letting seemed to have been very generally employed, and with marked benefit wherever there existed much affection of the head or of the chest. Affection of the chest, indeed, was a very common attendant of the fever which prevailed this year at Ghent. Typhus, with catarrhal symptoms, was marked upon several of the slates attached to the patients' beds." pp. 198—201.

He gives more than usual information in his article Amsterdam. In the hospital of St Peters at that place, the wages of the men servants are 20d. those of the women 15d., with something extra for tea or coffee, and both sexes are boarded. In this hospital, there appears to be a weekly statement of the number of patients in the house, the admissions, discharges, and deaths. It is capable of containing 600 patients, by placing beds down the middle of the wards. This practice is extremely injudicious, and should never be had recourse to.

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* "The present clinical professor is Dr Van Rotterdam, to whom I feel much indebted for acquainting me with the manner in which medical studies are conducted in the university of Ghent, and for putting me in the way of forming a judgment respecting them myself."

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We may here observe, that it has been lately the practice at the Santo Spirito of Rome, by way of saving the funds, to crowd the patients into one ward, while many others are left empty. In 1818, there were actually *five* ranges of beds in some wards.

The foundations for lunatics appear to have excited an unusual degree of interest in our author, and to that of Amsterdam he assigns a larger space than to all the establishments of Milan, Padua, and Pisa, put together. The medical officers are two physicians and two surgeons; the number of lunatics, 50 men and 90 women; but of the diet, or the funds, we have no account. The governors appear to control the conduct of the keepers with much strictness, and the moral treatment of the patients is pursued with great propriety and attention. We trust we shall not be supposed to advocate the system of severity. Unnecessary severity we deprecate; and all curtailment of the rational comforts of the patients we are decidedly averse from; but we must say, that there is a certain whining cant of humanity in which we hear many persons indulge, a compliance with the suggestions of which, seems much more calculated for the gratification of the visitors than the benefit of the patients.* A constant inspection by the proper authorities will go far to correct abuses, but these inspectorial visits are not of such modern date, or of such exclusively British origin, as we are in the habit of supposing. In the twelfth century, Benjamin, the Jew of Tudela, found a large building at Bagdad, called "the House of Mercy," destined for the reception of lunatics. They were in chains, it is true, but the magistrates made a monthly visitation of them, and suffered those who had recovered their reason to return to their friends.†

The due occupation of their time is a point of essential utility to lunatics. At the hospital appropriated for their reception at Berlin, the employment of every hour is fixed, and is announced to the patients by signal; each individual is fully occupied, and the strictest discipline is maintained. Perhaps, as has been observed to us by an enlightened friend, this military appropriation of time is not consistent with our English manners and ideas of liberty. This may be the case; but, in some shape or other, we are advocates for the regular employment of lunatics. It has often struck us, that what is true of other hospitals may be said of

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* A patient who is quiet the moment a strong iron handcuff is applied, will seriously injure himself or his keepers in a manacle of leather; he knows the inutility of struggling in the first, and he rarely loses hope of escaping from the latter.

† Benjaminis Itinerarium. 8vo. Lugd. Bat. 1633. P. 69.

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those for lunatics;—to make them places of recreation and indulgence, which the unfortunate inmates never experienced in their healthy state, is a very likely mode of insuring their return, after a temporary absence at their own homes and ordinary occupations. There is an ingenious plan adopted at Sonnenstein Lunatic Asylum, near Dresden, an establishment where bodily exercise is looked upon as of great importance in the treatment. By this plan, sluggish patients, who often lounge about the fire all day, and sleep very little at night, are obliged to exert themselves; they are placed in a machine somewhat on the principle of the wheel formerly employed for the reception of turn-spit dogs; they are properly secured, to prevent all injury; after the first step made in this machine, the person within must necessarily continue to move his limbs as in walking. By these means, after some time, fatigue to any extent may be produced, and the patient often falls into a sound and refreshing sleep. Another very useful contrivance, and of great simplicity, is employed at Berlin to restrain furious patients. They are seated in a chair; the hands secured in proper gloves, but their feet not allowed to touch the floor. This prevents all violent motion as effectually as possible. The inventor we know not; the machine, stated to be used near Dresden, is employed by Dr Piegnitz. But all this time we have forgot Dr Carter.

Our opinion of his work scarcely requires summing up:—Had it been entitled Memoranda, or Sketches, or any thing that did not imply a description of hospitals, climates, and diseases, we should have risen from the perusal with diminished disappointment. We lament this, because Dr Carter is, if we are not mistaken, the first travelling Fellow of Oxford, who has given any account of his medical labours; and, on the allowance of L. 300 per annum for ten years, half of which were to be spent in travelling for the improvement of physic, much might have been done to fulfil the intentions of Radcliffe, and many important facts might have been collected. Far be it from us to insinuate that Dr Carter has not improved himself; indeed, we believe that no man can have travelled so long without having acquired much useful knowledge; but we must say, that he has been singularly unfortunate in his attempt at communicating it to others.

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