

The following particulars, concerning the celebrated Dr. Astruc, are extracted from the Leipzig Commentaries, vol. 17. part 2.

John Astruc was born in the year 1684, at the little town of Savoy, in the province of Languedoc. His father, who was a protestant clergyman, bestowed particular pains upon the earliest part of his education. After which he went to the university of Montpellier, where he was created master of arts in the year 1700. He then began the study of medicine; and, in two years, obtained the degree of bachelor, having upon that occasion, written a dissertation on the cause of fermentation, which he defended in a very spirited manner. On the 25th of January, 1703, he was created doctor of physic; after which, before arriving at extensive practice, he applied to the study of medical authors, both ancient and modern, with uncommon assiduity. The good effects of his study soon appeared; for, in the year 1710, he published a treatise concerning muscular motion, from which he acquired very high reputation. In the year 1717, he was appointed to teach medicine at Montpellier, which he did with such perspicuity and eloquence, that it was universally said, he had been born to be a pro-

feffor. His fame soon rofe to fuch a height, that the King affigned him an annual falary, and he was, at the fame time, appointed to fuperintend the mineral waters in the province of Languedoc.

But, as Montpellier did not afford fufficient fcope for his aspiring genius, he went to Paris with a great ftock of manufcripts, which he intended to publifh, after fubjecting them to the examination of the learned. Soon after, however, he left it, having, in the year 1729, accepted the office of firft phyfician to the King of Poland, which was then offered to him. His ftay in Poland, however, was but of fhort duration, and he again returned to Paris.

Upon the death of the celebrated Geoffroy in the year 1731, he was appointed Regius Profeffor of medicine at Paris. The duties of this office he difcharged in fuch a manner, as to anfwer even the moft fanguine expectations. He taught the practice of phyfic with fo great applaufe as to draw from other univerfities to that of Paris, a great concourfe of medical ftudents, foreigners as well as natives of France. At the fame time he was not more celebrated as a profeffor than a practitioner. And, even at an advanced age, he perfifted with unwearied affiduity in that in-

tense study which first raised his reputation. Hence it is, that he has been enabled to transmit to posterity so many valuable monuments of his medical erudition. He died, universally regretted, on the 15th of May, 1766, in the 82d year of his age.