

**ESSAYS ON THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN, WITH
CASES AND DISSECTIONS. ESSAY II, ON THE
BOWEL COMPLAINTS MORE IMMEDIATELY
CONNECTED WITH THE BILIARY SECRETION,
AND PARTICULARLY OF ATROPHIA
ABLACTATORUM, OR WEANING BRASH**

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Essays on the Diseases of Children, with Cases and Dissections. Essay II, on the BOWEL COMPLAINTS More Immediately Connected with the Biliary Secretion, and Particularly of Atrophia Ablactatorum, or Weaning Brash by John Cheyne

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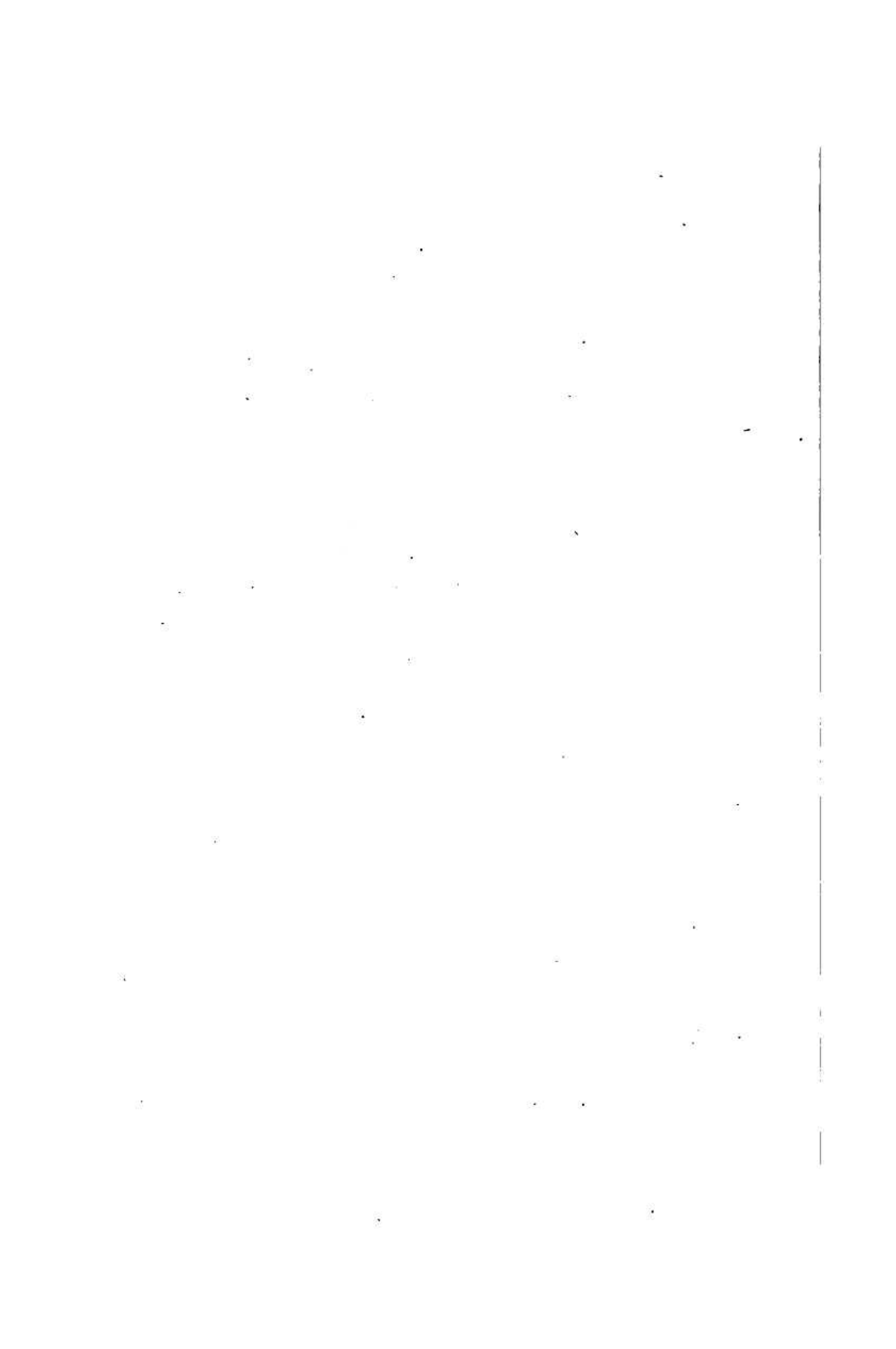
JOHN CHEYNE

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The Binder is also requested, when he finds signature L done up with Essay II, to take it thence, and place it immediately after signature K. of Essay I. to which it belongs.



ESSAYS
ON THE
DISEASES OF CHILDREN,
WITH CASES AND DISSECTIONS.

VOLUME I.

CONTAINING

ESSAY I. OF CYNANCHE TRACHEALIS, OR CROUP.
ESSAY II. OF THE BOWEL COMPLAINTS MORE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH THE BILIARY SECRETION.

BY JOHN CHEYNE, M. D.
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

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INTRODUCTION.

TO understand the economy of the viscera of the abdomen, and, consequently, to comprehend the pathology or diseased state of these parts, it is of the first importance to attend to the connections of the hepatic system. The liver and stomach and intestines form the extremities of one system of vessels, the vena portæ. The vena portæ is aptly enough described as a tree, which shoots its roots widely amongst the membranous viscera of the belly, and extends its branches into the substance of the liver. The bile, which is the peculiar secretion of the liver, being collected from the extreme branches of the hepatic system, by the branches of the ductus hepaticus, flows into the intestines; and as it is their peculiar stimulus, it holds a sway over their actions, according to the quan-

tity and quality discharged into them. The excitement of the intestines, again, has a reciprocal influence upon the glandular viscera, and particularly upon the liver; because, on the excitement of the intestines, depends the velocity of the circulation through them; and the returning blood of the intestines is sent back, not into the heart, but through the vena portæ, into the liver. And thus, in an obvious manner, are the intestines and liver connected; namely, the intestines with the liver, by the biliary secretion, and the liver with the intestines and stomach, through the medium of the circulation of the blood in the vena portæ.

As I introduce the proper subject of this paper with some notices of those diseases of infancy which depend on the liver, it may be necessary to preface these remarks with a short statement of the change which takes place in the system of the liver after birth.

During the dormant state of the fœtus, if I may so express myself, whilst it remains in the womb, the functions of the several organs are unexercised, and the mass of blood adapted to the growth of parts is supplied by the mother. The organs, therefore, which in the adult are subservient to the supplying of the blood with nutritious matter, are unemployed in the fœtus. The stomach, intestines, and glandular viscera of the belly, have as little connection with the

economy as the undistended lungs; and thus imperfections in these viscera are attended with no obstruction to the system, until the child is born; as organic defects in the lungs, and in that part of the structure of the heart which is subservient to the circulation through the lungs, show themselves only when the lungs have assumed in part the function of the placenta.

After birth, a complete revolution takes place in the circulation of the blood through the organs seated in the abdomen. By the action of the muscles of inspiration, and the consequent distension of the lungs, a new route is opened to the blood flowing from the right side of the heart; and the united and forcible exertion of both ventricles, which was required for the extensive circulation of blood through the body of the foetus and through the foetal part of the placenta, is now divided; and the pulsation of the chord, therefore, becomes weak, and the function of the placenta is lost. The system of the child now depends on its own powers, and the secondary effect of the change of the circulating system falls on the abdominal viscera.

The chief effect produced on this part of the system is the interruption of the supply of arterial blood to the liver by the umbilical vein; for now all the large venous vessels of the liver come to be entirely supplied by the returning blood of the intestines, by venous blood, and by