A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS,
PERFORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
SHEWING, THAT ARTERIES MAY BE
OBLITERATED WITHOUT LIGATURE,
COMPRESSION, OR THE KNIFE; PP. 6-66

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A Series of Experiments, performed for the Purpose of shewing, that Arteries may be obliterated without Ligature, Compression, or the Knife; pp. 6-66 by Benjamin Phillips

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BENJAMIN PHILLIPS

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1. S.H. 1832

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BENJAMIN PHILLIPS.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, AND GREEN, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1832.

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TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

HENRY,

BARON BROUGHAM AND VAUX,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND,

&c. &c. &c.

THE PROMOTER OF LEARNING,

THE POSSESSOR OF THE MOST VARIED ACQUIREMENTS,

THE CONTROLLER OF SENATES,

THE ADMIRATION OF HIS COUNTRY,

THIS ESSAY

IS (WITH PERMISSION) INSCRIBED

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

4, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, January 1, 1832.



TO THE PUBLIC.

THE experiments detailed in the following pages were performed in the hope of discovering some mode of arresting the progress and effecting the cure of aneurism without resorting to the use of the ligature.

To the non-medical reader, it may be necessary to explain, that an aneurism is a tumour, formed either by the dilatation of the parietes of an artery, or by the escape of a certain quantity of blood, which, in consequence of the solution of continuity of the arterial parietes, is infiltrated and forms a species of sac or cyst. Does compression possess any advantages not possessed by the ligature? The only one is, the absence of a bloody operation: but, far from being less painful, many persons have been unable to support it at all. It is more dangerous than the ligature. If it exposes him less to the apprehension of hemorrhage, it has more frequently produced gangrene of the extremity. It acts at the same moment upon the arteries, veins, lymphatics, and nerves. By this means it has destroyed the nervous influence, and prevented the reflux of the circulating fluids.

Compression was made upon the tumour alone, upon the entire extent of a member, between the tumour and the heart, or below the tumour.

This method was at the time much more successful than any other; and Guattani is said to have effected many cures. Until late times, the operation has retained some partisans; and it is useful when an aneurismal sac has been opened by accident, or when, in consecutive hemorrhages, we find it impossible to apply fresh ligatures.

Cauterisation of an aneurismal sac with a redhot iron was employed with success by Marcus Aurelianus Severinus in a large femoral aneurism.

No circumstances could be conceived to justify, in the present day, such a mode of proceeding, however fortunate may have been the result in this instance.

The facts mentioned by Paré, Trew, Guattani, and others, prove the dangerous nature of such applications.

About the same time was introduced the treatment of Valsalva, who debilitated the system locally and generally, for the purpose of weakening the circulation. This mode of treatment, which seems to have been attended with occasional success in dilatations of the cavities of the heart and the aorta, is not only inefficacious, but dangerous, in external aneurisms. Employed