

*An extraordinary Case in Surgery, communicated
by Mr. Joseph Atkinson Senior, Surgeon.*

A Maiden, about 20 Years of Age, was brought to me about *Christmas* 1723; who had a Tumour on the inside of her right Thigh, extending from the Groin to the Knee, which was so large, that I judg'd it contained at least the Quantity of a Gallon; the *Cutis* was exceedingly distended, but of the natural Colour, only, the capillary Veins appear'd varicous, and very numerous; she had also a large Tumour on the Buttock of the same Side, of the Bigness of a Quartern Loaf; but when the Tumour on the Thigh was pressed, the Tumour above very much encreas'd, which shew'd a Communication, and prov'd afterwards so to be: She had also another Tumour on her right Side, stretching from the left Side of the *Vertebrae* of the Back to the *Hypochondrium*, about the Bigness of a Penny Loaf, her Body was very much emaciated, and she could hardly breathe, and the little Victuals she eat very difficultly passed out of the Stomach. She had had the *Menses* but twice or thrice, about 12 Months before the Beginning of those Tumours, and it is to be marked, that the Tumour of her Thigh began first, and increased to near the Magnitude I first saw it, before the Tumour of the Buttock and Hip began; after that, the Tumour of her Back began, which, as it increas'd, brought on great Difficulty in Breathing. She had been with several other Persons, who advis'd against opening the Tumour of her Thigh, most of them being of the Opinion it was from Blood, and that her Case was incurable: I confess,

confess, I was of a contrary Opinion; but being told what so many others had said, I declin'd meddling with it at that Time, though her Parents and herself were willing to it: At this Time I dismissed her, saying, that, if she liv'd, a little Time wou'd discover more of her Case. About two Months after I was desired to visit her again, which I did, but the Tumours were so monstrously increased, and her Body so wasted, that I wonder'd she could live under such Circumstances; the Tumour of the Thigh was every Way yielding to the Pressure of the Finger, nor was there the least Hardness about the Extremities of it, so that it might be easily mistaken for an *Aneurisma*, had it not wanted the grand Characteristick, Pulsation, which some say, is not to be felt when those are very large, the Middle of this then look'd a little red, and shining, and seem'd to point a little; I told them I believed it would break with a small Orifice, and shew what was contain'd, willing them to notify it to me if such a Thing happen'd: Three Days after they call'd me in haste to this Patient, saying, the Swelling of her Thigh was broke; when I came, I found there had been discharg'd a small Quantity of matterish Substance, much like what is contain'd in a *Meliceris*, but the Opening was so small or clos'd, that I could not enter my Probe; however, though she seem'd to me (and to Mr. *Wall*, an Apothecary then present) to be ready to expire, yet, at the Desire of her Parents, I open'd this Tumour with my Launcet, making an Incision about an Inch and an half long, through which poured three Pint Basons full of Matter, besides several smaller, which together contain'd about five Quarts, it was very fetid and bloody towards the latter End of this Discharge; upon this, the Tumour wholly subsided, in-

ſomuch that the Thigh inſtantly became as ſmall as the other; I put my Finger into the Wound, and found the *Fascia lata* quite conſum'd, the Muſcles lay all looſe, ſo that I fairly touch'd the Thigh-Bone between them, as I would.

But I ſhould acquaint you, that, immediately upon the Diſcharge of this Humour, the Tumour on the Buttock was conſiderably abated, but there followed about two or three Spoonfuls of florid Blood; I dress'd it up for this Time with a proper Digefſive, and a ſuitable Bandage; the Day following I viſited her again, and found ſhe had ſlept pretty well, and was much reſreſh'd, and not the leaſt Faintneſs had attended her, during my Abſence, which ſhews the imaginary *Syncope*, that is feared to follow ſuch, Evacu- ations, to be groundleſs; the Day following, tak- ing off my Dressings, I found the Limb, in its Figure, bigger than the other; at the third Dressing there appear'd a ſmall hard Swelling a little below the Orifice, which was made by ſome grumous Blood that lay there, which I turn'd out with my Finger, in Quantity about four Ounces, this was follow'd by a florid Blood, which much ſurprized me; I then judg'd this proceeded from ſome Hypogaſtrick Veſſel that ſupplied this Tumour, and I deſpair'd of Suc- ceſs, unleſs I could meet with this Spring; ſo, in or- der to it, I laid open the Sinews to the Groin, and, though I could not diſcover the Veſſel, yet I ſo ſuc- ceſsfully applied my Aſtringent, that from that Time it bled no more; however, there was, for a Week, a great Flowing of a ſerous Matter, which wholly ſunk the Tumour of the Buttock and Hip, and, by bouſtering and compreſſing with ſuitable Ban- dage, the ſo long ſeparated *Cutis* clos'd with the Muſcles,

Muscles, and all Things, in about a Fortnight seem'd to be in a fair Way of healing, yet, it was near three Months, before this Cure was compleated.

But still (that is, a Fortnight after the Opening of the Thigh) the Tumour on her Back continu'd, and she much straitened for Breath; saying, if that was opened, she should be presently reliev'd; this Tumour I then open'd (which was, I said, as big as a Penny white Loaf, and there issued out about two Quarts of Matter, or rather more: I was again greatly surpris'd that such a Quantity, so much more than what possibly this visible Tumour could contain, should run out of this Orifice; I enter'd my Probe, and found it penetrate into the Cavity of the *Thorax*, between the second and third spurious Rib, reckoning from beneath, on which she respired with all Freedom, but there was a *Halitus* at this Wound; I continu'd to dress this and believe, before this tend'd towards Healing, not less (at Times) than a Gallon, or rather five Quarts of Matter, was discharg'd; but, when I thought all was over, it fill'd again, the external Tumour became almost as big as before, and her Breathing as difficult as ever, so that I now thought all my Labour had been in vain; yet I open'd it again with a larger Orifice, and from that Time dress'd it successfully, to the perfect Healing; the *Menses* are return'd, the Patient continuing well to this Day, and in a good State of Health. This Patient has been view'd by Mr. *John Douglass*, and he has had an ample Account of this Affair.