

XXXIII. *Continuation of the Case of James Jones.* By Richard Browne Chefton, *Surgeon to the Gloucester Infirmary.* Communicated in a Letter to Mr. Henry Watfon, *Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital.* (See p. 323.)

Read November 16, 1780.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE it at last in my power to inform you of the state the bones of the *pelvis* appeared in after a *maceration* of five months: for though by very seldom changing the water, and keeping the vessel containing it rather in a warm place, I suffered the highest putrefaction to come on, it took up that space of time before the soft parts were entirely destroyed.

In my account of the state in which I found the *thoracic duct* of the same subject, I mentioned my suspicions (from the only examination I then had it in my power to make) that a considerable part of the substance of the *os innominatum* was destroyed or absorbed; but *maceration* has cleared up this circumstance, and shewn, that the depth the probe entered, and the gritty  
resistance

réfistance I felt in the body of the tumor, was not from its passing through a carious or diseased part, as there was reason then to suppose, but from the quantity of osseous matter deposited on the outward side of the *os innominatum*; and that the part so loaded with it externally, and as it afterwards proved to be *internally*, was apparently in a sound state.

It is difficult to fix upon the precise part where the tumor occupying the right moiety of the *pelvis*, and containing the boney matter, originated. There is, however, every reason to suppose it began low down in the *pelvis* under the *peritoneum*, as the surface of the tumor was evidently covered with that membrane; and from every circumstance in the appearance of the tumor, as well as a careful examination of it, during the progress of its dissolution, it is probable, that passing out of the *pelvis* anteriorly through the *foramen ovale*, as well as laterally under the *ischium*, and rising upwards over the spine of the *ilium*, it formed a complete communication from within outwardly, so as to envelope the whole of the right *os innominatum* entirely.

As the soft parts of the tumor decayed in maceration, great quantities of boney matter in irregular forms and of different sizes were found in the water at the bottom of the pan; and as no force, nor even

motion, had been used which could have separated this matter from what remained adherent to the bone, it is highly probable it was ever deposited in, and dispersed through, the tumor in a detached state.

The tumor, externally, bore the usual appearances of a diseased or enlarged gland; but, by degrees) as I had opportunities to observe upon changing the water) the whole appearance was changed, and the boney matter, as the maceration proceeded, seemed surrounded by a hard, white, and rather transparent substance, not much unlike suet, in which state it principally resisted the dissolvent power of the water.

When the bone in general seemed sufficiently cleaned for drying, I found in one part some remains of this fatty substance; but as I was unwilling to continue the whole in water any longer for the sake of this small portion, and thought besides that in its drying I might get some insight into its nature, I exposed it to the open air, and was surprized to find that in the course of three days it was intirely diffipated, scarcely a trace of it remaining, unless that, in the particular portion alluded to, the boney matter was of a more dusky colour than elsewhere.

I had now the satisfaction to find the attention and care bestowed upon the bones during the maceration amply repaid by the singularities which they presented.

The left *os innominatum* was perfectly free from any unnatural appearance in every part, even to its junction at the *symphysis* of the *pubis*; but there the line was drawn, and disease immediately began to shew itself through the whole of the right *os innominatum*, and to advance as it were from a superficial ulceration to excrescences in the greatest quantity.

It is remarkable, that the cartilage connecting the *ossa pubis* should be so complete a boundary to the disease; for though the external *lamella* was in all that part of the *os pubis* and *ischium* (particularly at the *ramus* of the latter) which united forms the *foramen ovale*, not the least deficiency is to be observed in the left *os pubis*. So interesting to the knowledge of the nature of this disease is it to observe that the extent of the tumor, which terminated exactly at this part, should likewise as exactly have limited its effects or consequences.

So far then as the external *lamella* of the *os pubis* and *ischium* was deficient, so far these bones presented that roughness and irregular loss of substances which is commonly denominated ulceration or superficial *caries*. The bottom of the *acetabulum* had likewise suffered in a similar manner: but over the whole of the *ilium*, both externally and internally, the *lamella* seemed very little injured, though covered by vast quantities of boney

matter branching out into various forms of different sizes, which a minute examination and careful attempt to separate ascertained to be mere, though firm, adhesions to the surface of the bone, and adventitious to the part on which they were found.

I am, &c.

Gloucester,  
November 1, 1780.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE DRAWINGS.

##### N<sup>o</sup> I. A front view of the *pelvis*.

It may only be necessary to observe here, as the drawing is so expressive of the original, that the centre of the external part of the *iliac* is not covered with bony matter in such quantities, or of such a size, as there is around and over the posterior part of the *crista* or spine, and where this bone forms a junction with the *os sacrum*; yet there is not the space of a six pence which has not more or less of it on it.

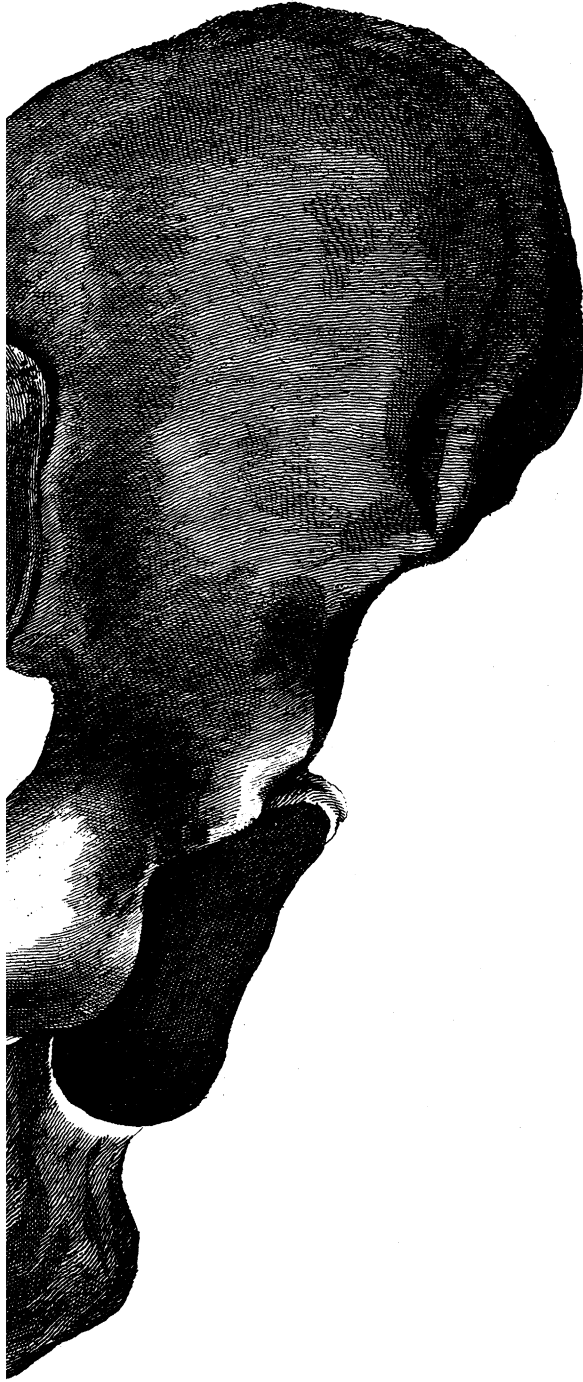
The *os sacrum*, though apparently found, is likewise sprinkled with it in several places.

N.º 1.

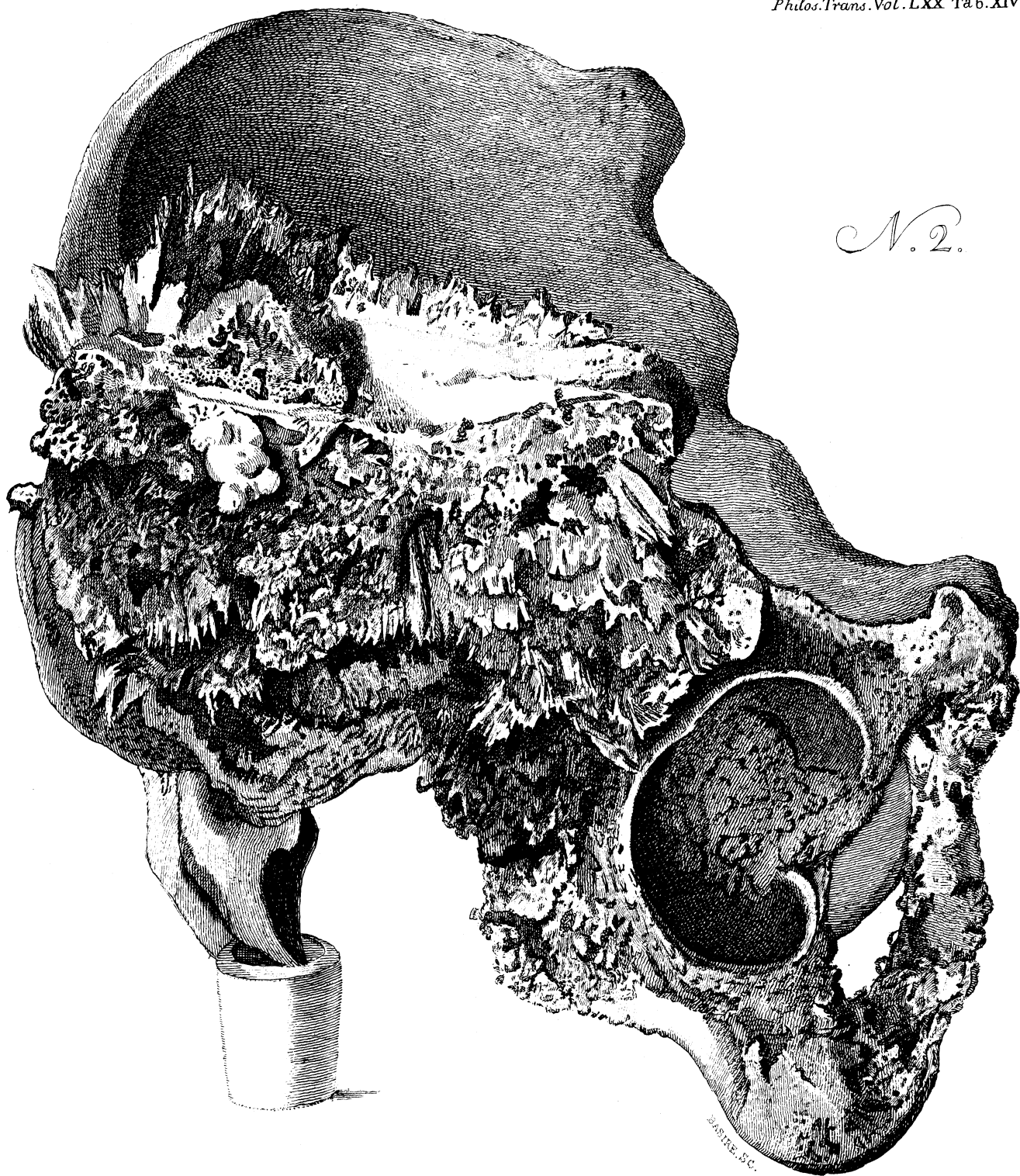


RICHARDS DEL.

BASIRE. SC.



*N. 2.*





N° II. A side view of the *pelvis*, shewing,

1. In the *acetabulum* a slight erosion.
2. The boney matter in different forms and sizes on the outward side of the *ilium*.
3. The *os sacrum* slightly expressed, resting on a cork.
4. The *crista* of the *ilium* at the posterior part thickly covered with boney matter; at the anterior, free from it.

I have made no references in the drawings, as the above remarks will be sufficiently obvious.



N.º 1.

