

# THE LETTERS

## LETTER NO. 1

*From Owen Evans, 8 October 1796*

St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
October 8th. 96

Dear Weekes —

I suppose you begin to think I have almost forgot there is such a place as Hurst, at least that it is now inhabited by any person I know; however, I assure you that is not the case. — I am sorry to hear of the Death of poor Tom Wadg's Wife; it must be a great loss to him; the Puerperal Fever is certainly a terrible disease, and since I have attended Dr. Clarke's<sup>78</sup> Lectures on Midwifery I have often wonderd it does not oftener occur, owing to the very improper treatment which the old headstrong Nurses will often persist in, in spite of us. — I am ashamed to say I have not called on Grace<sup>79</sup> since I received yours, but hear from Dick<sup>80</sup> & the Dodson's<sup>81</sup> she is very well; whom have called on me 3 or 4 times. — I am happy to hear of your success in Midwifery, a bold stroke! — Dr. Clarke recommends us in Puerperal Convulsions, which may happen either before or after Delivery, during the fit to throw cold water in the face so as to give the sensation of drowning to the patient; to open the Temporal artery, & to give as large a dose of Opium as you dare to give; Dr. C. informs us by this mode of treatment that out of the last 13 cases of true Puerperal Convulsions he has lost but one Patient; but at the same time recommends Delivery immediately. — You must well have an Idea how extremely busy I am now, but just to give you an account of it, will farther convince you of its reality, I will begin with the morning before breakfast at which time I have to visit several patients in the Hospital, at 10 O Clock Dr. Roberts<sup>82</sup> Lectures on the Practice of Physic & Materia Medica, at 1 O Clock we go into the Dissecting rooms to hear Demonstrations, at 2 O Clock Mr. Abernethy<sup>83</sup> begins his Anatomical Lectures; dine at 4. half past 5 Dr.

<sup>78</sup> John Clarke (1758–1818). Having attended the lectures of the two Hunters, George Fordyce, and Richard Denman, he built up a highly fashionable obstetric practice and lectured on obstetrics at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

<sup>79</sup> Grace Weekes, then aged twelve.

<sup>80</sup> Dick Weekes, at that time attending Merchant Taylors' School.

<sup>81</sup> Dodson family. Jeremiah Dodson became rector of Hurst in 1701; on retirement (1736) he passed the job on to his son Christopher, who, in turn, was succeeded by his son John, who served 1784–1807. John married a vicar's daughter from Staplehill, Staffordshire, whose family he was presumably visiting (Letters 54 and 61). John's son, also John, born in 1780, attended Merchant Taylors' School (1791–98), and proceeded to Oriel College, Oxford, graduating BA 1801 and DCL 1808. He was called to the bar from the Middle Temple, appointed judge of the Prerogative Court, Dean of the Arches, and was Member of Parliament for Rye 1819–23. He died in 1858. The rectory where the Dodson family lived was next to the Weekes' house. For further details see William Ellis, *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 1883, 33.

<sup>82</sup> Edward Roberts (1762–1846), physician to St Bartholomew's Hospital.

<sup>83</sup> John Abernethy (1764–1831), surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital. A dramatic lecturer who propounded the doctrines of John Hunter. His following among the students was similar to that of Astley Cooper at the Borough Hospitals.

Letter No. 1

Clarke on Midwifery, 7 Dr. Powell<sup>84</sup> on Chemistry & during the Winter there will 3 times a week at 8 O Clock in the evening Mr. Wilkinson<sup>85</sup> on Experimental Philosophy, & every Friday Evening the Medical Society to which I am a Member, from here we do not get away till 11 O Clock; so I think you will conclude my time must be pretty well employed, at least should be so. — I hardly ever get to bed before 12 or 1 O Clock & sometimes later, I am obliged to do this to get my writing done. I have quite a Folio of Dr. Clarke's Lectures; & am now writing out Dr. Roberts's & Mr. Aby's on Physiology. I almost forgot Mr Ay's Surgical Lectures which begin next Month to add to the lot; all I can say is, it is too much, I assure you it works me confoundedly. — I have been several times to old Fordyce,<sup>86</sup> it always puts me in mind of your father's time, I have wishd he had been there; the poor old Man is almost wore out he will wait sometimes 5 or 6 minutes in the middle of a sentence, seems quite to forget himself; but he's remarkable, will go on properly again. —

Mr. Marshall<sup>87</sup> was so good as to send me a brace of Birds & a Rail the other day; but I have not yet had time to thank him. — My most respectl. Compts. to your Father & the family, & I remain

Yours sincerely

Owen Evans

The Case you mentioned of the Woman at Wapses,<sup>88</sup> I recollect something of; I suppose it was a Polypus the removing it, was certainly the only thing that was to be done Dr. C. recommends it to be done by Ligature, I understand that often by the irritation they produce on the Uterus, that a sanious discharge will sometimes take place which will continue in such immense quantitys so as to destroy the Pat. Mr. Morgan<sup>89</sup> called on me the other day; he came to our Theatre to the Operation of Lythotomy. — The last time I was at St. Thos.'s at the Operations Mr. Cline inquired after you also of Mr. Borrer<sup>90</sup> he wondered Mr. B had not been in Town; but hoped

<sup>84</sup> Richard Powell (1767–1834), physician to St Bartholomew's Hospital

<sup>85</sup> Charles Wilkinson (1763–1850)

<sup>86</sup> George Fordyce (1736–1802), physician to St Thomas's Hospital

<sup>87</sup> The Marshall family were long established in Hurst. Dick Weekes married Mary Marshall.

<sup>88</sup> A farm at Twineham, see map.

<sup>89</sup> Possibly Charly Morgan, surgeon-apothecary at Henfield, where he had been parish doctor, but lost the job to Ingram (Letter 76). He and his son were reinstated by 1832, when they were paid £35 by the parish for one year's medical and surgical attendance. (WSRO Par 100/37/5.)

<sup>90</sup> Borrer family. The closest family friends of the Weekes. They were recorded in Sussex in 1570 and moved to Hurst in 1780, when William I (1725–97), with the help of a rich wife, bought Pakyn's Manor. His son William II (1753–1832) attended St Thomas's in 1776/7 at the same time as Cline. Borrer did not practise medicine. He was Sheriff for Sussex in 1802, and his eldest son, William III (1781–1862), was Hampton's great friend and contemporary. He moved to a large house at Henfield, which his father had built for him, and devoted his life to botany. He became friendly with Sir Joseph Banks and Sir William Jackson Hooker, and published frequently on British botany. His major work was a classification of British lichens, which was privately printed. (See Mark A Lower, *Worthies of Sussex*, Lewes, 1865; and *Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)*.) His eldest son William IV published a definitive *Birds of Sussex* in 1891. Nathaniel Borrer (1790–1863), the third son of William II, married Mary Anne, Hampton's sister, and they lived at Pakyn's Manor. Their son, Rev. Cary Hampton Borrer, was vicar of Hurst for almost sixty years (1841–98), during which time he had the church pulled down and a new one built largely at his own expense. Nathaniel's sister, Sarah, married Hampton. (ESRO Par 400/17/427.)

*Letter No. 2*

he was quite recovered of his indisposition. — You begin to think by this time of Dirty roads & Bolney<sup>91</sup> proof Boots & Coats. — Shall be happy to hear from you. — Adieu —

**LETTER NO. 2**

*From Owen Evans, 2 January 1797*

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Jany. 2d. 97.

Dear Weekes —

I suppose you begin to doubt of the existence of such a person as O.E. I assure you I have been more than once in the very act of writing to you for this Month past, but have by one circumstance or another been disappointed; I fully intended writing to you by Dick when he returned into Sussex but was so unfortunate as to be out of the way when he was so good as to call on me. — We have of late been froze out of the Dissecting Rooms so that till now again that part of my business has been at a stand; in fact I have not as yet done much for myself in making of Preparations neither do I think I shall as I am sorry to say Subjects are very scarce in proportion to what they formerly were & they charge a most exorbitant price for blood Vessel subjects & Extremitys; they charge 4 Guineas for a Muscular Subject. — I have during the season spent a great deal of time in the Dissecting Room assisting one or another & sometimes help Mr. Abernethy's Man get the Subject ready for Lecture; I assure you the more I know of Anatomy the fonder I am of it which I hope will be of some encouragement to you; at the same time lament my forgetfulness of things which I have before learnt & I am confident the minutiae of Anatomy is a part of our Science which a Man very soon forgets except he is constantly in the habit of seeing, or renewing his memory by reading on this Subject. — We have a great deal too much to attend to; I am of opinion for a Man to make himself a good Anatomist shd. attend only to that subject; I would the next Course if I could, attend only to this, but in the situation in which I am in I cannot; as I must attend to the Patients in the Hospital & go round with the Physicians as well as the Surgeons which takes up a great deal of time. —

Please to give my respects to your Father & I am very sorry I could not have the happiness of seeing him when he was in Town but suppose his stay was very short. My mind becomes every day attack'd with the thoughts of procuring a livelihood for myself, the more I reflect on the present times the more eager I am to embrace an opportunity I hardly know what plan to think of persueing I often think I shd like to see yr. Father to consult with him on this subject & indeed I shall certainly take that opportunity before I determine on any thing. I understand Captn. Jefferson has said he could he is pretty certain get me as Surgeon & Lieutenant in one of the Militias,

<sup>91</sup> See map.

Letter No. 3

which would certainly be a pretty thing for a young Man. I do not feel much inclination to go abroad or otherwise there are plenty of situations. Dr. Roberts had to offer the other day a Surgency to an Indiaman to any young whom he could recommend this he mentioned to me, as he thought it worth my acceptance provided I liked to go & shd. like to leave the Hospital at this time, but I objected to it on this account as also on my Mothers who has a very great objection to my leaving this Country. — A gentleman whom I am become intimate with since I have been in Town has recommended to me a situation at Marlow in Bucks which he says is a good situation [ . . . ] I understand there is another Practitioner in [ . . . ] who by the bye is no Conjuror tho') but is [ . . . ] the principal families in the Neighbourhood during his Life except he resigns business which I understand there is a probability of his doing as he has just married a Woman of large Fortune being before a Batchelor, & he was prior to this negligent of this business, & as far as I can understand the people about the Neighbourhood are tired of his inattention. — The worst of it is I understand it is a dirty Country but to counteract this they say it is a Rich one. — I remember your Father hinting Little Hampton to me as a good situation ask him if his sentiments are the same, — Remember me kindly to all the Family & I remain Yours faithfully  
Owen Evans.

I hope the Oysters arrived safe & proved good. —

LETTER NO. 3

*From Owen Evans, 12 April 1797*

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Apr. 12th.

Dear Weekes —

I cannot suffer my old friend Dick to return home without writing you a few lines. I was very much surprised, & sorry to hear of the melancholy accident which befel poor Mrs. Kemp & indeed much more so knowing well how very greatly your Father must be affected on her account; I cannot say I was much surprised when I heard of her paying that tribute to Nature which we all owe. —

Dick will inform you of the particulars of our excursion to Chelsea on Tuesday, & how very pleasantly we spent the day. I must confess I was never more highly entertained than with the company of little Grace;<sup>92</sup> the very sensible & pleasing manner in which she express'd her surprise at the different curiosities which she saw, was I assure you pleasing to the highest degree. —

I have at last sent you the Formula of our Hospital which I have long promised, there has not been any of them printed untill now again.<sup>93</sup> —

<sup>92</sup> Grace Weekes, then aged thirteen.

<sup>93</sup> The *Pharmacopoeia of St Bartholomew's* was reprinted in 1799, the previous edition being in 1772. For full details and extensive information about the workings of their apothecary's shop see W.S. Church, 'Our hospital pharmacopoeia and apothecary's shop', *St Bart's Hosp. Rep.*, 1884, 20: 279.

*Letter No. 4*

I had a letter the other day from Dr. Kerr of Northampton to inform me of the very great plenty of Medical Men in that part of the World (Assistants excepting) Mr. Warden Sergison<sup>94</sup> having wrote to Dr. Kerr on that head. It is the sentiment of all the Medical Men here that if a Man has it in his power to settle any where, now is the time before the expiration of the War; — The majority of our young Men are now going into the Army or Navy which I firmly believe I should also do was it not for the sentiments which your Father impress'd on my mind, relative to that line of life. — Our Lectures &c, & my time here is now drawing to a speedy conclusion. — There are no situations at present in this City except where large Premiums are demanded, & in fact was there any tolerable view of comeing into business here I cannot say I shd. like it being so much more partial to the Country. — I had hinted to me the other day by one of the Surgeons of this Hospital a Speculation which he thought an exceeding good one provided I shd. be situated [ . . . ] the Coast, the particulars of which are too long to relate here, but which I shall be extremely happy to have yr. Fathers opinion on when I see him. —

Dick is now waiting for this & I am much hurried being our Medical Society this Eveng.

My most respectfl. Compts. to yr. Father &

I am Dr. Weekes

Yours Sincerely

O Evans

**LETTER NO. 4**

*To Richard Weekes [?19] September 1801*

Dr. Father —

I am now writing on my new desk, without which I should not be comfortable I went Yesterday to purchase it, it cost me £1.10s.0d.

But now to what has passed, before my arrival at Leadenhall Street nothing particular occured, I called on Rd. Snelson,<sup>95</sup> who I had heard previously was at home, he was very glad to see me, I walked with him to the top of Reygate Hill, he told me where I could call on his Brother by Vauxhall, the Coach came along & we parted he was very glad to see me & said he would call on me in Thomas's Street No. 8

At my arrival at Adcocks,<sup>96</sup> he was not at home but expected by to Day from Brighton he appears to be pushing for business, Mrs. A— did ask after my Sister if she

<sup>94</sup> Warden Sergison was the head of an old-established Sussex family who lived at Cuckfield Park. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Life Guards. (See *Sussex Archaeological Society*, 1984, 25, for pedigree.)

<sup>95</sup> Richard Snelson attended Merchant Taylors' School 1790–99, and went to Oxford, where he graduated BA 1802, MA 1805 and became Vicar of Ryegate 1812–47.

<sup>96</sup> William Adcock, pharmacist. Traded under the name of Adcock and Hiscocks in Leadenhall Street. (The names and addresses of tradesmen are taken from the *Post Office Annual Directory*, 1801, and *Holden's Triennial Directory* 1801/2/3.)

would come to Town at Christmas. but not inviting her much, Mrs. Pugh<sup>97</sup> was there & invited me at her house, I dined in Leadenhall St. the next day & was not sorry at laving it for there are 6 Shop Men every day sitting down to dinner & Tea, including Wm. adcock & Hiscocks, who Dick knows very well, you may conceive it would not be a verry Plesant thing to my Sister,

I have been no where yet litterally have not had time, Thursday was taking in Day a verry buisy one serving out to the patients

I saw old Fordyce to day for the 1st. time he put me in mind of your time, at the Hospital & was almost tempted to speak to him in our Shop if he knew or had any recollection of your name, he appears verry decrippped, his Legs are swelled verry much; Mr. Whitfield,<sup>98</sup> tells me to day he does not mean to Lecture any more, Cline<sup>99</sup> was here for the first time since I arrived but did not go round the Hospitall, I spoke to him hoped he and family were very well, and if his Son was at home he said no but he would return about afornights time that he was gone Shooting, he said he had had tolerabile sport, I asked him if he would dissect this Winter he answerd yes, we had not a great deal of conversation, he should see me again, & that he had recieved a Hare from you, & begd of me when I wrote to you to thank you for it,

The shop seems altogether new to me I dont know which way to turn hardly it seems difficult to read some of the Phisicians hand writing it is wrote so short what do you suppose he means by M. M.D.c. V. A. T., & P. O. o. n., & so on, in such a hand

Fixott<sup>100</sup> is the oddest fellow, we are frequently talking French to gether, he says he will assist me at anytime we went one Evening to Smoke two Pipes together & take our Glass of Grog; we met 3 Jersey fellows Gentlemen there was such a talking of French with us I enjoyed it a great deal, Fixott is very good naturd but verry petty, Attree<sup>101</sup> does laugh at him so and calls him a frenchman, he answers quickly and says dem de French I am not French Man he is an only Son & been very much indulged.

He and Attree both attend Midwifry Lectures at 8 in the Morning, I one morning went with them, down Frying Pan Alley some were there I think you lodged, do send me word,

<sup>97</sup> Mrs and Mrs Pugh were friends of Richard Weekes. He traded as Pugh and Davis, Druggist and Chemist, at 12 Old Fish Street

<sup>98</sup> Richard Whitfield, apothecary to St Thomas's Hospital.

<sup>99</sup> Henry Cline the elder (1750–1827), surgeon to St Thomas's Hospital. His son Henry (1781–1820) attended Merchant Taylors' School, where he was a contemporary of Hampton, and in May 1800 entered St Thomas's as dresser to his father, whom he succeeded as lecturer in anatomy and surgery in 1811, and as surgeon in 1812. South (op. cit., note 47 above pp. 34 and 133), who was his apprentice, described him as "tall sickly, and very plain man, marked with smallpox and very shy." He died of pulmonary tuberculosis at his father's house in Lincoln's Inn Fields in May 1820.

<sup>100</sup> Charles Fixott. Enrolled as Whitfield's other pupil 12 August 1801.

<sup>101</sup> William Attree. Admitted dresser to Astley Cooper 30 June 1801. A member of a prolific Sussex family (see volumes of genealogy in the library of Sussex Archaeological Society) who were friendly with the Weekes. Thomas stayed at home, but William, his brother, became a member of the College of Surgeons in 1803, and joined the army as surgeon in the Ordnance Medical Department. He resigned to practise in Brighton, where he was surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital and the Royal Household. He died in retirement at Sudbury in 1846 (Plarr's *Lives*, and the *Medical Directory* 1846).

Letter No. 4

The purchases wh. I have made I hope you will think no more than is just, Duglass half a Crown<sup>102</sup> your Quills 2s & 6d my Forceps 2s Coach & Coachman 14s. Carriage & Portrage of my box 4s. 10., I have not given Plays a thought yet, my room looks towards the dissecting Room where I sit, Attree & I, are very comfortable I like Mr. & Mrs. W. very well, we are in very great bustle moving & House painting from top to bottom,<sup>103</sup> I cant see a word I write hardly, you will say I ought to have wrote better.

St. Thomas's, Saturday Night.

I have not waited on Holmer,<sup>104</sup> or Sparrow,<sup>105</sup> yett I shall expect a Letter from you next if Dick was here he would wonder a little we had an operation to day just above the Knee for a verry bad fractur'd Leg. I felt to great a tenderness for him, it was before dinner too, it was a shoking sight.

Mr Weekes  
1801  
Septr 19

Bot of Laundry & Son<sup>106</sup>

A Spring Trocar	8	----
4 Knives in Case wt forceps & Scissars	15	----
Blunt Gorget	4	----
	<hr/>	
	£1 7	----
	<hr/>	

Recd Laundry

<sup>102</sup> James Douglas (1675–1742), *Myographiae comparatae specimen: or a comparative description of all the muscles in man and in a quadruped*, Edinburgh, 1777. In view of the cost, it is unlikely to have been W.G. Douglas, *Nine anatomical figures, representing the external parts muscles and bones of the human body*, London, 1748 (large folio).

<sup>103</sup> H1/ST/D8/2 “Mr Whitfields painted and whitewashed”. There are no further decorations recorded until 1809 when the house was “painted, papered and whitewashed”.

<sup>104</sup> William Holmer. Friend of Richard Weekes for whom he acted as banker, trading as Spooner Atwoods and Holmer, 40 Fish Street Hill. He also had an interest in an iron foundry, Holmer Bunnet and Pik, 165 Borough.

<sup>105</sup> Sparrow family, friends of Richard Weekes. Jonathan Sparrow traded as an ironmonger at 74 West Smithfield.

<sup>106</sup> J. Laundry and Son, surgical instrument-maker of 12 St Thomas Street.



Letter No. 4

	£	s	d
1801 Sept.			
Hospital Pupil	26	6	0
Mr. Cline's Lectures – 2 Courses	9	9	0
Dissections	6	6	0
Babington, <sup>107</sup> Curry, <sup>108</sup> & Robert's <sup>109</sup> Lects.	12	12	0
Innes, <sup>110</sup> on ye. Musc.	0	2	6
Writing Desk	1	10	0
A Gown	0	14	0
Cranium	0	9	0
Washing Book	0	1	6
Dissg. Forceps	0	2	6
Scissars Gringg.	0	0	6
Case of Scalpels	0	13	0
Two Gorgetts	0	7	6
Tenaculum	0	2	6
Mortar, Brass*	1	1	0
Cline's Splints	0	7	0
A Bason	0	2	6
Quills Opt.	0	2	6
1 Number of ye. Journal to complt. my work		2	6
Adcock's Maid	0	1	0
A jaunt to Deptford	0	5	0
Treated Fixott with Custards	0	1	0
A Pipe & a Glass of Grog with him one night	0	2	0
Trocar and Spring	0	8	0
	<hr/>		
	£61	8	6

\*Have not paid for it yet but suspect it will be more

<sup>107</sup> William Babington (1756–1833), physician to Guy's Hospital. South, who also sat through his lectures on the practice of medicine, described them (op. cit., note 47 above, p. 58) as "full of experience and practical good sense which the simplest minds could receive and understand. He used to wear black, with silk stockings, was a very untidy dresser, and rejoiced in dirty hands".

<sup>108</sup> James Curry (d. 1819), physician to Guy's Hospital. He diagnosed all his patients as having liver disease and his panacea was mercury, which earned him the nickname Calomel Curry.

<sup>109</sup> No records are available about Mr Roberts.

<sup>110</sup> John Innes, *A short description of the human muscles, arranged as they appear on dissection*. The second edition was reprinted by T. W. Hawkins, Southwark High Street.

## LETTER NO. 5

*From Richard Weekes, 21 September [1801]. Postscript by Richard Weekes jun. (Dick)*

Hurstperpoint Sept. 21

Hampton

Yours I recd. last Evening to Morrow Dick & I tap old mother Clark I like the Trocar much and the Scalpels but the blunt Gorget not much it is too large for Children unless brought more to a point, young Westover the man with the Edematous Leg is ill saw him for the first time Friday Morning appear'd to be a Crural Hernia been coming 2 or 3 Weeks had had it before cur'd itself, I thought it must be Omentum only as we readily procurd stools by Cathartics. Enema's &c remark'd a very strong pulsation of the Crural Artery in the Tumor, pulse 130, no distressing symptoms of Vomiting &c in any great degree. complain'd of pain in his side, & restlessness saw him again Yesterday. The Artery pulsates so strong as to be able to overcome almost any resistance by pressure of your hand, & I conceive it is an Anurism of the Crural Artery but so high, (just under poparts Ligt.) that I see no possibility of taking up the artery with any prospect of saving his life<sup>111</sup> —

Frk. Gander fell off his horse Saturday Evening & was Kill'd on the spot just by Danny I believe there was a fracture of the Os Occipitis. with depression he was dead in an instant<sup>112</sup> —

All the street at Fulking are failing with Typhus Marchants family at Perching<sup>113</sup> &c &c they have Ingram<sup>114</sup>

Dick is crazy for the remainder of the things in your memorandum the Mortar, Sopha, wash hand bason &c (send them by the next Carrier Mr. Magweed.<sup>115</sup>)

We have sent Sr. John Hayes<sup>116</sup> a Hare. Mr. Champion<sup>117</sup> has sent us a brace of birds, you wish to know where I lived it was in Castle street, I use'd to turn in just

<sup>111</sup> Cooper in one of his early anatomy lectures discusses the differential diagnosis and difficulty in distinguishing a hernia from an aneurysm. Possibly Hampton had heard him. *STHMS MS 29 p. 70.*

<sup>112</sup> Horse-riding was frequently dangerous. The *Weekly Advertiser or Lewes Journal* records a year later on 10 October 1802, "On Friday se'nnight a man named Gander, servant to Mr Burtenshaw of Pain' Field Farm, near Henfield, was thrown from one of his master's horses and dragged by the stirrup through a young cut copse, on which he was so terribly bruised and lacerated that he died in consequence the next day." Danny is an Elizabethan mansion at Hurst owned by the Champion family, which they only left in 1947.

<sup>113</sup> For Fulking and Perching see map.

<sup>114</sup> A surgeon-apothecary in opposition to the Weekes. Young Ingram (John) who came to St Thomas's as a pupil in 1800 was probably his son.

<sup>115</sup> A family name for Hampton. Others are Hamptoniman, Tony, Majorca, Hamptony, Major Magweed, My Boy Major, and Major.

<sup>116</sup> Sir John Hayes (1750–1809), army surgeon and later physician to the Westminster Hospital and the Prince of Wales.

<sup>117</sup> Since 1702, the Campions had been the local grandees at Hurst. In 1801, Henry Courthope Champion was head of the house. His eldest son, William John (1770–1855), had married Jane Austen, a distant

Letter No. 5

below St. Margts. Hill on the right hand side through a little dirty lane which I forget the name. this carried me out to the Quakers meeting house in Redcross street I cross'd this street & then directly into Castle street. at the farther end a house on the left hand opposite a public house. I think the sign of the Fox, the man that lives there now knows me by name, ask him if there was not one Weekes liv'd there in Messengers time tell him you are my Son & ask if the skeleton of the Turkey be hanging in the Kitchen — I suppose Dr. Fordyce knows me by name those abreviations by initial letters in the physians book no man alive can divine unless they are explained to him Mr. Whitfield will do that.

I am glad you like Mr. Fixotte improve yourself in the French language as much as you can, did you hear any thing new in the midwifry lecture, you may easily borrow them of some person that takes notes to read them I mean for they are not worth transcribing

Your blue & black Coats will be in danger of being painted & that will spoil them get some Oil of Turpentine in that case immediately & with some Tow rub it out

Dick desires an explanation of the word tenderness in your Letter, he has a strong inclination to think it is only another name for Sickness, fainting &c &c Dick desires you would remember Elliott, and hopes you was not carried out for a dead man, wishes you to take a bumper of brandy next time & buy you a small bottle of Volatile Salts or a little snuff in a box, but the better way is to take your Eye off at times send me word if they apply the Tourniquet upon the Artery or the outside the thigh & the compress only on the artery and what the compress is made off if [ . . . ].

I ride Bull every day he holds his wor[ . . . ] well has no cough now nor is he lame at [ . . . ]. Dennett<sup>118</sup> was gone home on the Sunday without hurting the leg accordingly I rode up there directly after leaving you at stonepound and when I come out to the road again you had been gone by about 10 Minutes when I reached Cuckfield saw Tillstone<sup>119</sup> he was about an hour after you going to London in his gig, & was very sorry he had not your company

Mary Ann & Grace are gone to Wick<sup>120</sup> — Dick desires you will write again soon & send the Pulv. Antimony. Tenaculum & a number of other curiose things —

I can think of nothing more to say & am in a hurry to be gone so conclude with respects to your friend Attree &c

Yours sincerely

R. Weekes

P.S. We wrote this Letter on Monday and thought it was post day. on Tuesday Westover died we are not sure what the swelling was whether it was hernia or what it

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relative of the novelist, and it was their son Henry who is mentioned as the "heir to Danny" (Letter 104). He did not survive the year, but the line was continued through another son, William. The family still live at Hurst. (See Judith Wooldridge (editor), *The Danny archives*, Lewes, East Sussex County Council, 1966.)

<sup>118</sup> The Dennett family were friends and patients of Richard Weekes, who lived at Woodmancote Place. John Dennett was Sheriff of Sussex in 1803.

<sup>119</sup> Bartlett Tillstone, a friend from Merchant Taylors' school, which he attended 1794–96.

<sup>120</sup> A farmhouse about six miles from Hurst.

Letter No. 6

was. be that as it may he is dead.

I remain your Loving Brother  
Dr. Dick.

(beware of fainting)

Send a pair of Sharps splints for the right leg directly

LETTER NO. 6

To Richard Weekes, 24 September 1801

St. Thomas's 24th. Sepr 1801

Dr. Father —

Yours dated ye. 21st. I recieved to day; it afforded me great pleasure in perusing, you approve of ye. Trocar & Scalpels I see, but not so much of ye. Gorget, I have with this Letter sent you one of a smaller size, with Tenaculum, Sharps Splints, a Bason wh. I think will do very well.

I waited on Mr. Holmer this Evening for some Money, it was not convenient unless he went to the Shop wh. is not a great distance off, but I would not give him that trouble so I wait on him to morrow morning, he says he can recomend me to a friend for a Sofa, he asked very kindly after all our family & was very glad to see me, thanked me for the Partridges, his daughter arived today from Edinborough she was 20 hours on her journey appears pretty well, but has not quite lost the Scrofula in her Neck —

I suspect Westover's Case to have been Aneurism, if so & in his case certainly nothing could be done, we have in ye. Dissecting Room some very famous specimens of Popliteal & Aortaral Aneurism's, I have been very much pleased in looking over the Muzeum were after inquiry for the Case of the old fellow who was kept in the Hospital on purpose that a preparation might be made of him the Feces were voided under Poparts ligament by the taking of the Intestine to the Cutis,<sup>121</sup>

There is a young Man by name of Davey<sup>122</sup> from Norfolck who has the very situation I am envious of it is Demonstrator he commensed only last Year, seems a nice but very young Man, Cline I believe gives him £100 a Year, he was Apprentice to Chandler,<sup>123</sup> — There is also one from Devonshire by name of Saunders<sup>124</sup> at Guys

<sup>121</sup> J.F. South and S. Jones (editors), *The descriptive catalogue of the preparations in the museum of St. Thomas's Hospital*, London, H. Renshaw, 1859, contains many of the specimens that were present in 1802 but does not include this one. The collection remained almost complete, including the many specimens of Astley Cooper, until 1957, when the greater part was destroyed. Some were saved and are now in the Pathology Department of the Medical School.

<sup>122</sup> Richard Davy, pupil at Guy's in 1800.

<sup>123</sup> George Chandler (d. 1822), surgeon to St Thomas's Hospital.

<sup>124</sup> John Cunningham Saunders (1773–1810), Astley Cooper's anatomy demonstrator, who in 1800, finding that Cooper preferred Mr. D. . . for advancement, entered business as a surgeon at Gravesend. The replacement was not a success, so Cooper begged Saunders to return, which he did in 1801, and stayed in the job until his death. He became particularly interested in diseases of the eye, and in 1804, formed the

Letter No. 6

Hospital, – Lewis's idea of Studying Anatomy without exposition of ye. parts is all stuff, for I went into ye. dissecting Room at Guys where was a Gentleman dissecting the extremity wh. was amputd. at Thomas's & the Muscles appeared as familiar to me you cant think how much so Dr. Dick there was exten. dig. communis, Tibialis Anticus, & posticus, Peroneus longus, et brevis, & I long to be at it, I have orderd a Head wh. I am to pay 9s. for about the age of eighteen, 'tis for seperation by maceration after dissecting it, — I am getting intimate with ye fellow who injects & is up to ye. whole of the business & knows more than half the fellows at leaving the Hospital he is now very buisy filling up the preparations & clensing as well as Varnishing the preparations,<sup>125</sup> — Fixott and i are now writing together by Candle light & Attree is just come in from being out to dinner, he is asking me if I will go to the play to morrow night to see ye. play of Wild Oats, & the entertainment of I dont know what for he has forgot he thinks the Lock & Key, I tell him I wont promise him he appears to have rather too many friends I think, he has not been educated in the way I have, I mean in the Medical department of, Osteology, Myology, Neurology &c & like as I was could not stick to it, tho he has procured a seperated Cranium from a young Man & has made a begining.

I like Mr. & Mrs. W. very well I am very civil & pay very great attention to them both; they seem to like it, we Breakfasted in the House to Day for the first time

There has been a case of Scrotal Hernia to day brought into Guy's they immediately put him in the warm bath for how long a time do you think, & what degree of heat do you suppose, – why that of a 105 of Farhenheits Thermom: and for 2 hours, they took 8 ounces of blood from him while in the Bath all wh. did not produce fainting, his pulse at the time beat 120 & some times 140, this is what I could not have thought it, then puting him to bed & applying cold solution of Sal. Am. it went up<sup>126</sup> – Now for fainting Dr. Dick, dont suppose I was carried off as a dead man Dr, but I felt a something indescribable as I have heard you say & took myself off just as they had taken hold of the Artery with the Tenaculum & immediately recovered, I wont do so again I think for I will persue the means you recomend, I can dissect I know, & could have performd the operation myself —

Frk. Ganders death surprised me, & at Hurst there was nothing else talked of for two day, now here it would be thought nothing of, I find I shall soon get callous to it all, – to morrow I shall pay Mr. W. the money for &c &c at the Hospital, I have form'd no new acquaintance in particular, yet nor dont wish to it excepting with clever fellows, — I called on Sparrow a day or two ago gave Miss S. her knife, her confidante was there, Sparrow was very glad to see me, askd after our family kindly & thankd you for the Partridges, asked me to dinner at any time, I walk'd with them

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London Dispensary for Diseases of the Eye and Ear, which evolved into Moorfields Eye Hospital. (See Bransby Blake Cooper, *Life of Sir Astley Cooper*, London, 1843, vol. 2, p. 11–13, for details of Cooper's shoddy treatment of Saunders.)

<sup>125</sup> For discussion of the ways anatomical specimens were obtained, see such works as *ibid.*, vol. 1, pp. 334–448; G.T. Bettany, *Eminent doctors*, London, 1805, p. 209; J.M. Ball, *The Sack'em up men*, Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd, 1928.

<sup>126</sup> This is the exact treatment recommended in Astley Cooper, *The anatomy and surgical treatment of abdominal hernia*, London, 1827, p. 32.

*Letter No. 7*

to Jackson's,<sup>127</sup> a distiller. Mrs. J is a very nise woman, Sparrow had drank tea, I did not stay supper, – I drank tea with Pugh two days ago, they were very glad to see me, Mrs. P. welcom'd me very much, they are a nice family, & they have a nice Shop all in the modern stile great many more R's and Spt's than we have, they say they must keep them for they have great many Praescriptions to put up,

Bull will do I have no doubt ont, if he is kept wrode; Young Cline is not come home yet, I have more to say but have not room, so adieu, I remain your dutifull Son  
Hampton Weekes.

(Lavoisier I forgot to bring.)<sup>128</sup>

**LETTER NO. 7**

*To Richard Weekes, 25 September 1801*

(Attree desired to be remember'd to you when I wrote)

St. Thomas's 25th. Sepr 1801

Dr. Father —

I am now sitting by myself in the Study beyond the Shop by Candle light, about eight o Clock & thinking it a convenient oportunity to say something more to you I have began —

Attree is gone to the play & Fixott is I dont know where, I have been to see a Venereal patient not far off from the Elephant & Castle, By Mr. W.'s desire by wh. means I escaped the oportunity of going with Monsier Attree to ye. play as Fixott, alias Don calls him, I am not sorry for it in my own mind for I am keeping the Money in my pockett by it —

Now to the proceedings of this Day, I went & Breakfastd with Mr. Holmer, Miss Holmer said she should be very glad to see my Sister to stay a few days with her, I then mention'd my Sister having had an invitation to Mr. Sparrow, who Holmer knew very & said he was a very respectable man, Miss Holmer then said she hoped she would not mis that oportunity of coming to stay with her, (I dont know if it was only complimentary or not exactly), Mr. H- & I than proceded to the Cabinet makers to a person who he could depend upon, I then chose a Sofa of the dimensions I were orderd, with a printed, & Dimety, cover &c. it is to be safely packed and to be at the Catherine Wheel<sup>129</sup> on Wednesday next, Mr. Smith the maker says he does not think he shall be able to get both the covers done by that time, if so the other I will take care shall be sent the Week after, for a good one of that description he said he could not afford to sell under £10.10.0, he could not exactly fix the sum, & I am told by Mrs. Whitfield it is not dear.

<sup>127</sup> Joseph Jackson, 21 Compton St, Clerkenwell.

<sup>128</sup> Presumably, Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, *Elements of chemistry, in a new systematic order, containing all the modern discoveries*, Edinburgh, [for W. Creech]; a third edition was published in 1796.

<sup>129</sup> The inn from which Knowle's wagon left for Sussex.

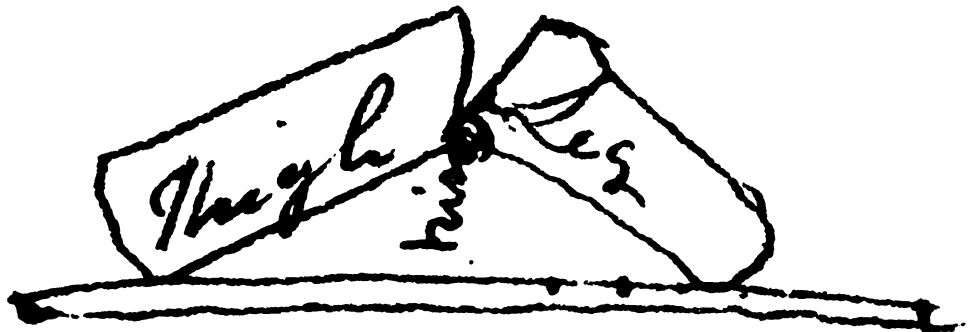
Letter No. 7

After this, I went to Mr. H.'s Counting House & he gave me a Check for £58.12s.0 & I think I have sent you a pretty satisfactory account how I have disposed of the major part of it, I have not spent more than 2s.6d. exclusive of that in the list excepting my Journey to Town which was 15s, I believe for I had no dinner; Snelson called on me to day I walked with him as far as Fleet markett he came just as Cline was going to extirpate a Steatomous Tumour on the right side of the last dorsal Vertebrae Snelson was in the Theatre & before the operation was finished my gentleman began to shew strong symptoms of the dead man so I made signs to him & walked him out & he soon got better, (I was very well) he immediately was glad to leave Thomas's,

I assisted Mr. Birch in removing the whole prepuce of a Man with very great fortitude, I like Birch<sup>130</sup> very well he is a very pleasant Man.

Mr. Whitfield is this moment behind me about to remove some of his books into his own house & is offering me some to read, – The Watch has just gone nine o Clock & we are soon going to supper, – I understand young Cline is going to dress this Winter he comes to Town to stay by the 5th of October, his Mother, Sisters, & himself are at Margate I understand, —

There must be Tow placed between the Splints & the leg to make them adapt themselves better, – Cooper has invented a new Fracture Box for either simple or Compound & I think a very good one it is large and inconvenient to convey from one place to the other, it is not a complex but of simple construction, it costs I believe as much as a Guinea & half or more, it is somewhat in this way,



this is something like it, the person lies almost entirely upon his back it will do for the thigh or leg,

When you get a Hare it will be very acceptable, Birds Mr. W. has had a great many & seems not to wish for them except in the later end of the season when he says he is very fond of them,

<sup>130</sup> John Birch (1745–1815), surgeon to St Thomas's Hospital. He founded a department of electrical treatment at the hospital, which was not popular, for he complained that he had to perform the manipulations himself, as he found it difficult to induce the students to take any interest in the subject (*DNB*). Hampton does not mention electricity. Birch was also an implacable opponent of vaccination, which "he uniformly and until death perseveringly opposed, consistently believing it to be a public infatuation, fraught with peril of the most mischievous consequences to mankind." (Written on his tombstone in Rood Lane, Fenchurch Street.)

Letter No. 8

Mr. W. has just shewn me a curious work published in France by one, M. Duverney maître en Chirurgie, à Paris, Membre de l'Académie de Chirurgie & Démonstrateur en Anatomie au Jardin Royal, in the year 1748,<sup>131</sup> a very capital work it represents the Muscles coulerd as large as life I am now writing upon it, it is as large as our Albinus,<sup>132</sup>

I must conclude with remaining

Your dutiful Son

H W. —

(How is ye. Canary Bird Grapin)

LETTER NO. 8

To Richard Weekes, 28 September 1801

St. Thomas's 28th. Sepr.  
1801

Dr. Father—

Your Letter I have just recieved, which I think requires an answer, In my last Letter I certainly did not account for having drawn £5. 5s. 0d, but having accounted for almost every farthing of the money I sat out from Hurst with, I thought it requisite I should have a little, tho: not with an intention of spending, it, for I suppose you will have no objection to my having as much money as any of them if I dont spend it. (as ye. Father said to his daughter) I shall certainly make use of it in the payment of the Sofa, I am just arived from the maker & have told him I will have one not quite so expensive, so with only one covering & alteration in the stuffing it will be about 3 Guineas less, he fortunately had proceeded no farther than having the coulerd cover made, if not so I should have chosen the Dimity one in preference, I have orderd him to give the bill to me wh. he will make out & send to St. Thos's. Holmer was not at home to day but I gave the notes to his son, recieving a receipt for it I will call again in a day or two, Haighton<sup>133</sup> Midwy, Cooper's Surgical, & Saunder's<sup>134</sup> Clinical

<sup>131</sup> *Myologie complete en couleur et grandeur naturelle, compose de l'essai et de la suite de l'essai d'anatomie, en tableaux imprimes*, two parts, fol., Paris, Gautier d'Agoty, Quillau & Son, & Lamesle, 1746. Colophon of part 2 dated 1748. Contains dedicatory leaf addressed to F. de Lapeyronie, signed by J.F.M. Duverny. The volume is still in STHMS library.

<sup>132</sup> Presumably Bernhard Siegfried Albinus (1697–1770), *Tables of the skeleton and muscles of the human body*, atlas fol., London, H. Woodfall for J. & P. Knapton, 1749.

<sup>133</sup> John Haighton (1755–1823), lecturer at Guy's Hospital on obstetrics. Also interested in physiology, where his experiments on animals, which included work on nerve regeneration and animal impregnation, earned him, even in the nineteenth century, the epithet of "The merciless doctor". (DNB).

<sup>134</sup> William Saunders (1744–1815), physician to Guy's Hospital.



*Letter No. 9*

Lectures I dont mean to attend, unless you recommend, I myself do not know if they will be of real benifit, if you think I should hear any of the preceding Lectures write me word, they are all for the money, I am shure; if you are introduced to any of them, they nearly bow & bow again, but they think nothing of you after, unless you put money in their pocketts — The Mortar I have paid for for it cost £1.8s. 0 pakage and every thing, it is rather less than ours, it is new 15d per pound they give 8d per pound for old morters —

I yesterday dined at Dulwich at Mr. Adcock's I walked there alone but came back in company with a Mr. Stanley<sup>135</sup> a Hospitallian at St Thomas's he has been here a twelve month, is dresser to Mr. Birch, he is a cleaver attentive young fellow, I have been round the Hospital with him to day assisting him dress, asking him questions & am somewhat intimate with him.

You will have the Mortar arrive & the Sofa I believe on Saturday, if the Man dont disappoint me, — I will be advised by you & be firm in all my proceedings, as to plays I dont feel an inclination to go to any neither will I at all I am almost amind to say, — I feel myself more pleasantly situated in the study a great deal, than walking about the Streets, I assure you, but that is not [ . . . ] at present with Attree or Fixott.

I think Fixott if he dont pay more attention will gett out of favour with Mr. W. — I asked Mr. W. the question you desired me, & he does not seem positive, if a young man must have serv'd Apprentiship or no, he only says that Cooper was demonstrator, it goes by favour a great deal, — I dont know what to make of old Cline yet; I will inform you what passes when, Hy. his son & I meat, I dont wish to see an old friend with a new Face, — The young fellows keep coming in here to pay their money I have not seen Ingram yet, Oh: Grace, the poor Canary Inform me how you like the Splints? We blister the Abdomen here in Typhus Fever a great deal, — I have been to no places of amusement yet, — I feel great pleasure in hearing from Hurst;

Your dutifol Son

Hampton Weekes

The Bill of the Sofa is just arived, it amounts to £6.6.0, 1s.6d, for Matt & package, but Mr Smith says it will not be of the best & that you must not find fault with it, more than that he can not get it done untill the Week following

**LETTER NO. 9**

*To Richard Weekes, 8 October 1801*

St. Thos's. 8th. October 1801

Dear Father —

I am now about to answer your Letter of the 21st. by saying I have just return'd from finding out the House where you lodged, wh. I found out very well & while I was enquireing about the Bakehouse of ye. Landlady who had been there but 6 or 7 Years

<sup>135</sup> Robert Stanley, dresser to Birch. Entered 30 September 1800.

Letter No. 9

& who appeard to know nothing much about Messenger there says she is a Man coming in at the door who lived with Messenger as Journeyman 30 Year ago by name of Hayes, I immediately questiond him on the subject, he very well recollected 4 or 5 young men lodging with Mr. M. two or 3 from Sussex he said whos names he realy had forgot, I asked him if he rememberd a Skelleton being baked in ye. Oven he said no but rememberd it being sent into Sussex, he described you as being a tall man & one a short stout one, I gave him a shilling, You are mistaken of ye. Skelleton of ye. Turkey hanging up in ye. Kitchen at ye. Fox it is ye. Finn of a Whale.

I went into ye. Bakers shop enquired if one Messenger did not formerly live there they said yes, —

You 'ere this have recieved ye. Sofa, 2 Barrells of Oysters, & the mortar I suppose, ye. Oysters I saw put into ye. Barrells I thought they were of ye. best, have orderd a dimety cover by Dr. Dick's desire it will arrive next week, ye. Mortar I think you will find too small, (dont know) the is one size between it and ye. other, I was at the Catherine Wheel late on Wednesday to see them load ye. things, payd ye. booking & carriage for ye. Oysters, & hope they will prove good, Now to business of ye. Hospitall, to day has been our taking in day, ye. number of patients taken in amounted to 63, men & women, it is my place & Fixotts to write down in ye. book ye. medicines ye. Physician prescribes I have done it to day, also to enter all their names, — Mr. Cline operates to morrow on a patient in ye. Hospital for Popliteal aneurism ye. only one since I have been here, at both Hospitalls I have seen several operations since I wrote last & mind nothing about it, the more the poor devills cry ye. more I laugh with ye. rest of them, two amputation's of ye. leg one after the other by Chandler (he is in a hurry) a scirrhus breast that had ulcerated in a woman, operation for Hydrocele both by Cooper (a neat operator) they inject red Wine diluted always after tapping it with Trocar, (Dr. Dick says he dont like the Trocar I sent am surprized Dr. D.

I go on Mondays, Wednesdays and fridays to Babbingtons Practice of Phyc, every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday to ye. Chemical & experimental Philosophy Lectures, each day in the Week at 10 o Clock, Tuesday & Friday Evenings at 7 o Clock Curry Lectures on Theory of Medicines, every day a little passd one Cline Lectures & sometimes Cooper, but amongst them all I have in reality seen or heard very little more than I knew before some Chirurgical remark I take down that strikes me to be usefull, Babbington speaks particularly of Cullens sistem<sup>136</sup> wh. I was not a stranger tho: a great many of them seemd to be. — I continue to confine myself to ye. environs of the Hospitalls, have been to no plays or any thing else yet, if an accident happens at either Hospital I and my mates are there as soon as anybody I was last night sitting in ye. dissecting room between two old girls while one of the chaps were gone for a light cutting away some times upon one & sometimes the other, a blood vessel subject came in to day, — Monday last was ye. first interview Hy. Cline & I had,

<sup>136</sup> William Cullen (1712–90), "The basis of Cullen's teaching was to the effect that life is a function of nervous energy, muscle a continuation of nerve, disease mainly nervous disorder, and fever an effect of diminished cerebral power from local lesions." Fielding Garrison, *An introduction to the history of medicine*, Philadelphia and London, W. Saunders, 4th ed., 1929, p. 358.

*Letter No. 10*

he was glad to see me invited me to dinner on a haunch of Venison where I met Mr. day,<sup>137</sup> a Merchant Taylor, & a Mr. Smith,<sup>138</sup> a Hospitallian with some others strangers to me, Attree is on my right hand saying make haste that we shall not be in time for ye. Post, Dr. Dick I shall send a Cocoa Nut an other time, — There have been no Illuminations that I have seen, Mr. W. has prepared in case it should take place,<sup>139</sup> it is no use my speaking of news for you will be acquainted with it by paper as soon as I shall be able to inform you — I hear of Hitchens being married & Wm. Hodson, write me again as soon as you please, Grace & Mary Ann say I dont mention mutch about them but shall more by and by when I have less to say, Rd. Snelson, & Wm. Dodson I have seen, yesterday a Mr. Mapleton of new Colledge Oxford dined with us, If you will just mention in your Letters of what you are in want of, will soon procure it for you, so now must conclude with good wishes to all

& remain Yours dutifully

Hampton Weekes

N.B. The Hare & Pears will be very acceptable —

**LETTER NO. 10**

*To Richard Weekes, 10 October 1801*

(have been to our chapel once and to St. Magnus<sup>140</sup> once.)

(we have had dine with us Mr. Bondilion & his Son, Cambridge men, very clever.)

St. Thomas's 10th. Octr. 1801

Dr. Father —

You must have percieved by the date of my last Letter I did not put it into the Post as I thought I should that night, for when Attree and I arrived at the office it was shut, & those that particularly wished a Letter to go must pay 6d. & considering mine not worth that sum, defered it untill the following night,

The Tower Guns have been firing all this afternoon also every Vessel in ye. River that has guns; for the ratification of these preliminaries. I am by myself again in the Study, taking the only oportunity of writing to you, I have had this Day, & indeed all days, Mr. W. is only at home with me, for Mrs. W., Attree, Fixott, & Mr. & Mrs. Osborne of Uxbridge are gone to Drury lane to see Artaxerxes, he is in the coal trade I believe, in a large way is a very fine fellow very like the Prince, Mrs. O- is Mrs. W's, Sister, they have been staying here two or three days Mrs. O- is an extremely chearfull woman sings delightfully, — Mrs. W's maiden name was Wade, her Brother

<sup>137</sup> John Day, dresser to Cline. Entered 5 January 1801.

<sup>138</sup> William Smith, dresser to Cline. Entered 2 October 1800.

<sup>139</sup> Negotiations to end the Napoleonic Wars had been proceeding through the summer and the preliminaries were signed in London on 1 October. They were confirmed by Napoleon on 5 October and the definitive Peace of Amiens was ratified on 27 March 1802.

<sup>140</sup> The church of St Magnus the Martyr, the other end of London Bridge from St Thomas's.

*Letter No. 10*

is also staying with us, he sings also systematically, & after they sing, we are calld on to sing of course, & 1st. Attree begins with something humourous, as he has a little about him, but as to idea of singing or voice (none), then I am calld on but wont sing say I never did in my life, then follows Don, he begins, quelque chose a la François, it produces such a laugh as you cant concieve, he cannot sing at all, but dont see that we laugh at him so adone with singing, tho: have not said why I did not be of the party to the Play, having caught cold a little hoarse, (my Nose running if you will allow me the expression,) and so forth Mr. W. advised me not to go, neither is he gone, so we have been very comfortable together, he is a man after my own Heart, I will not mention any particulars of him but he has no opinion of dam'd Priest craft & so forth his wife is of ye. same opinion, & indeed all ye. family of ye. Wades as far as I have seen, for Mrs. O. said to day that she had no opinion of those who were so strictly religious, they were never ye. best of people, think of this as you please, but I beg it may not get back to St. Thomas's again, the Wade family are very genteele people & very respectable one as I ever saw. —

I will now proceede on something else Who do you suppose has just been here, Dominick Whiteman, I walked with him as far as the Monument wh. had 12 or 14 Torches burning on the top of it, all the Streets are in illumination, you cannot suppose how grand a thing it is, all the Bells ringing, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12, such peels; but before we left the Hospital, I says to him, what will you go up into the dissecting Room, ah he sayd, he did not care, but seemed not much to like the idea, so away we trudged, and got opposite to it & saw a light, dam it says he have you got any snuff, no I says come along, so as we ascended the stairs, says he I never smell't such a stinck in my life, began to spit about & hung back I could not help laughing, however I got him as far as the door just peep'd in & saw 3 or 4 subjects, there was only one young man there who was wishing to finish a subject, for bloovessels, — he no sooner saw him but soon turn'd round keep'd on spiting & twisting about so we came down, tho: I did not tell you he said he was shure he should be sick, shure he should be sick. — he thought he was very brave indeed boasted when he came down, I did nothing but laugh all the time as you would have done had you seen him —

Cline was half an hour about the operation yesterday but did it very carefully, 1st. proceeded to make an insicion at ye. middle of the inside of ye. thigh & cut down to the Crural Artery, passd two ligatures tight round it; an Inch & a ½ a part & afterwards divided ye. Artery, midway, between. his external insicion was 4 Inches in length, (the operations that have been performd here have not been very succesfull) I mean to take an account of the case as I have of severall others, I think you did so while at the Hospital, — he was put to bed & in 5 or 6 hours after haemorage took place but I believe not from the Crural but from a collateral branch, it takes up too much of my Letter to speak of every particular about it as I could, if you wish such a one write me word — I dine with Sparrow I believe to morrow he calld yesterday while I was at Lecture & left word saying he wonderd where I was, he had not seen me.

As to fainting I have entirely done that away, I take no Brandy nor any thing else now, but at ye. 4 or 5 last operations there has been 2, 3, 4, & more young fellows who are uncomonly sick obliged to leave the Theatre, one was Guy's<sup>141</sup> son of Chichester

*Letter No. 11*

& several others. — How are ye. Oysters, do you like the Soffa, ye. cover, ye. mortar &c, I have got a nice Cocoa Nut for you Dr. Dick, will send it next week, you must dispatch it directly it wont keep, will gett sower, — Miss Ann & Grapin dont suppose I forget you, but I have nothing particular to say to you, you must consider that I write pro bono publico, if you want any thing Laidies write me word, here is to be shure, variety, the Watchman has gone past nine o Clock, the Guns tho: have not near done firing, the quite shake the Hospital, — Hy. Cline attends almost all ye. Lectures of Guy's, I walk part of the way home with him frequently, he understands Osteoly, Myology &c. Dr. D. I tell him I shall like to dissect with him, well says he we will have a spat at it some time or other, no one seems to be in hurry about tho: yet, he is good natured, has a sort of winking & snifing in his Nose. I did not say I believe; he was a capital Chess player, he gave me check mate ye. 2d. or 3d. move, I moved my Kings Pawn, then he his also, I then moved my Castles Pawn he immediately got out his Queen, then the next move he made was his Queen into the place my first Pawn stood, wh. was as you know Ann check mate, this was play I had never seen before.

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We have 100's of Volumes here, (free access to) — Old Fordyce's portrate hangs over ye. fire place,<sup>142</sup> he is the only one of ye. Physicians who gives a Lecture on taking in day, upon the complaints of ye. patients, — All Buck Boot and pantaloon gentlemen here, in winter they will be very comfortable,

Yours dutifully,

H. Weekes

½ past nine o Clock and it Thunders and lightens a great deal.

**LETTER NO. 11**

*From Richard (Dick) Weekes, 14 October 1801, continued by Richard Weekes*

Hurst. Oct. 14. 1801

Dear Brother

We have just received your letter of the 10th. Instant wherein you mention your having a Cold. we are sorry to hear it. (I write for all.) the Oysters where very good. one barrel we sent to Mr. Blaker's, he was much Obliged to you for them. the Mortar we received and like it very well. there was no Pestle arrived with it nor none we want. the Sopha is not yet arrived but suppose it will not come untill next Saturday. with the Cocoa nutt. I have begun this letter in time and dont mean to send it off till Sunday next. — We are going to have no Soldiers now on account of Peace.<sup>143</sup> Hurst

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<sup>141</sup> William Guy, dresser to Chandler. Entered 29 September 1801.

<sup>142</sup> Possibly the portrait by Thomas Phillips RA, still at St Thomas's Hospital, or an engraving of it by G. Keating. See John Winstanley, 'The coldest of the Scotch. The rediscovery of a St Thomas's man', *St Thom. Hosp. Gaz.*, 1981, 79 no. 3: 96.

<sup>143</sup> Militia had been camping at Hurst in case of invasion by Napoleon. Full details of the organization are given in John Fortescue, *The county lieutenancies and the army 1803–1814*, London, Macmillan, 1909.

Letter No. 11

was illuminated on Tuesday Evening every house in town except Dodsons and Roberts's therefore Dodson had one pane of glass broken. we had three candles in each window rocketts fired of in abundance and guns. I and Tertius fired of Rocketts and guns Hurst for once was all alive like a fair. — You are to write as small as this to us in your Letters my father says. then you will have full three times as much room to say any thing to us. you are to write very often and account every thing that occurs at the Hospital Cases &cc and if one sheet of paper is not enough write two.

The Sherifs family<sup>144</sup> Miss Beckett Tertius Wm. Ellis Mr. Roberts and I all went to the play at Brighton. horrid performance. supped together cost me 10.6. at Hicks hotel<sup>145</sup> with A. Farncombe. Campion & Wm. Borrer have given dinners and suppers at Bartleys to their work men and wives. perhaps it will be Sir Wm. now very shortly if the King receives an address from the County of Sussex. — My father is gone to Hollingdales wife at Poynings<sup>146</sup> had two Labors Yesterday. Holmes's wife Poynings a week ago a bad and long Case obliged to use the Perforator the Woman is brave. Mrs. Payne is at Old Bine's house. going to lay in there expected every day he has spoke to my father. Thorp's wife Brought a bed at Fulking. I dont go to any yet. we are all well. wrap yourself up warm always. especially on coming out of a warm room or the Play house. eat and drink hearty. you have told us nothing as yet how you come on with wine &cc. you have answerd none of our questions in our last letter hardly. we dont mind about the postage of them write two or three one to Dr. D. and one to Mr. W. &cc. we file all your letters and you should keep ours to peruse just before you write that you may answer all our questions. take notes and Cases of every Case Subject and every thing else. tell me in your next if H. Cline knows Ost. Myo. Neur. &c. to the very bottom & by heart too.—

Mr. Bridger is a great deal better was here to day desir'd to be remember'd to you and says he is better. — You have had very grand illuminations I suppose. We had a dreadfull storm of Lightning Thunder hail ever experien'd at Hurst quite shocking I can tell you. You have a very comfortable situation I am sure. — Write read and learn by Night as well as day — wear a flannell waistcoat. gett a pair of Buck boots. directly and wear them. for the wet weather is coming on. we are rather slack of business none all but Labors. Browne's Daughter of Fulking is dead. — poor Dominick I have not yet seen him. ha hah ha: I think Mrs. O.'s observations are right enough. go to Church every Sunday morning. learn Chess well. — gett acquainted with Old Fordyce. go to Sowerby's<sup>147</sup> house. have a light heart, plenty of Brass, and a thin pair of Breecks. You are to get a flannell waistcoat made directly and take plenty of Decoction of Bark when your cold is somewhat better every day. my father says you do very right in not singing. (keep your religious opinions to yourself.) and go to

<sup>144</sup> I.e., the Borrer family.

<sup>145</sup> John Hicks was proprietor of the Old Ship Hotel, the site of fashionable balls and important town meetings.

<sup>146</sup> See map

<sup>147</sup> James Sowerby (1757–1822) was busy preparing *English botany*. The first volume was published in 1790 but the thirty-sixth and last appeared in 1814. He was also preparing *Coloured figures of English fungi*, which was started in 1799 and finished in 1815; and *British mineralogy*, published between 1804–17 with five hundred plates. He was helped by his two sons. James (1787–1871) was interested in chemistry, and George (1788–1854) was an artist and conchologist, who also dealt in minerals. (*DNB*.)

*Letter No. 12*

Church every Sunday. my father is just behind me and is come home from Poynings & tells me what to write. get a very accurate Idea he says about fixing the Tourniquet. and taking up the Arterys with the Tenaculum. commit all operations to paper. Small as well as great besure. form as close a friendship with H. Cline as possible.

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Saturday morning Oct. 18 1801

The Sopha is just arrived safe and cocoa nutt I cant tell you how we like it now as have no time and hurried to send this Letter in the baskett Carr. Pd. with the pairs. eat them as soon as ever they are ripe treat Mr. Whitd. with some after dinner every day. we shall soon have a hare or some birds to send you. hope your cough is better all join in love to you. (am so busy opening the parcel of the Sopha.) I thought of sending this letter by post but we thought of the pairs,

& so remain

R. Weekes

P.S. Show Dr. Fordyce this Oak leaf ask him what it is. and send us word. Wm. Borrer knows not what it is nor we neither, they are very common almost every leaf on some trees. remember me to all. &c.

Dr. Dick

I shall tap the Cocoa nut soon —

**LETTER NO. 12**

*To Richard Weekes, 23 October 1801*

St. Thomas's Octr 23d. 1801

Dear Father —

Having recieved the pears wh. I am very much obliged to you for, I immediately gave them to Mrs. Whitfield, Mr. W. not being at home he is gone to meat his Brother on business; he sat out on Wednesday the 21st. & will not return untill ye. Monday following, now during his departure he entrusts me with ye. superintendance of this that & the other, I have keys entrusted to me of store rooms, Wine Vaults of the Hospital, not of his House, that being a separate affair, — again of entering, all the patients names in ye. Ledger's tho: they are not strictly so, Fixott is a complete Boy therefore he says nothing of this sort to him — The reason of my giving the pears to Mr. W. is that I know he will like it he being somewhat a connoisseur in fruit of all kind, for he has got not a small garden at about 1 Mile distance that produces several kinds of fruit among wh. there are no Swans Egg pears.<sup>148</sup> —

Now Dr. Dick towards answering yours of ye. 14th. by wh. I find you have not recd. my last, were in I speak of the dreadfull storm we had as well as you — You begin by saying you are sorry for my cold & little Cough wh. I had, but at present have almost quite got the better of, I borrowd a flannel waistcoat of Attree, that did me

<sup>148</sup> A favourite dessert pear, in season during October. Robert Thompson, *The gardener's assistant*, Glasgow, Blackie, 1859.

*Letter No. 12*

great deal of good, I think of getting myself one from your advise, – As to buck boots I will tell you a something of Attree has just had a 2d. pair, so you may suppose they are worth but very little, each pair costs £2.6.6, what think you of that for a pair of brown paper boots for they are literally nothing else, they are not like Randles's<sup>149</sup> wh. I should prefer a great deal, – If you were to desire him to make me a pair, stiff in the Leg & pretty high up, long in ye. foot with seams on each side of the Leg instead of behind, – but if you desire I should get a pair here I will – Money I have enough at present having £3.8.6d – Now Dr. as to Wine we make out very well for Mr. W. is so good as to produce a Bottle every day after dinner & also after Supper, it is Currant wine very good, – what we take is generally two glasses after Dinner & one after supper not more, we take nothing more either of us excepting either of us loose a Bottle by a bett if so we go and partake of it at a Tavern some where, this has not occured more than two or three times, we have each of us I believe lost a Bottle each I whon one to day from Attree, — As to Porter I take none neither do I want any — I am glad to find you like the Mortar & think you will the Sofa — I suppos'd it must have been all over with your encampment at Hurst — I was pleas'd with the idea of the Dr.'s having his window's broken, for I think he should not have been such an excentric, we had several of the like transactions done here, one house I saw in which there was not a whole pain of Glass in it — I admire your loyalty — from what I have learnt the Tower Guns were firing yesterday for Alexandria,<sup>150</sup> being yealded to the English, which I think the French must have foreseen, & I believe was one thing that stimulated them into a pacification with us —

I have abstain'd from Plays hithertoo, the only place that I have been to is Dibdin's<sup>151</sup> Frisk, as the present amusement is call'd at wh. place I was also somewhat amused, but I dont go again I seem to have no time to see museums or botanic Gardens or the like, wh. must each be seen in the day time, & which time I am taken up with Lectures, going round the Hospital serving out to the patients; or making one thing or the other, as to Pills, Dr. those that are too small for the machine, such as Alteratives, they are cut out and sent up into the Womens Wards to be made round, so we have but little trouble on that Head, – other things the directing part I do but we have two Laboratory Men under us to do the drudgery – I did not tell you I think; that we have a Machine for grinding Bark, Cinamon & all those friable substances, & the Cive paced into it so as to act with no other manual assistance than turning a winch – it cost 50 Guineas — I am glad you have Mrs. Payne at Newtimber, tho: it is what I expected, how does he get on with his House, also Mrs. Beards, write me a word soon again for I like to hear from Matts —

You desire me to tell you if Hy. Cline knows Osteology, Myy. & Neury. I think he does pretty well, he has just began to take the Box for dressing, & seems cleaver at it seems to have all the Mechanical part of it for you know there is something in that, he if you remember was very fond of carpentring & had a genius for it, — if I may speak my mind Dr. D. you had not a great deal of that, I mean such as applying bandages

<sup>149</sup> John Randell, shoemaker, Black Lion Cottage, Hurst High Street.

<sup>150</sup> 2 September, 10,000 French surrender to General Hutchinson outside Alexandria.

<sup>151</sup> Charles Dibdin (1745–1814), dramatist, actor, and songwriter of 2 Leicester Place.



*Letter No. 12*

plaisters &c, – Each dresser that takes in is under the necessity of sleeping at the Hospital his respective Week, & last Week was Clines turn, during wh. time I greatly renew'd my acquaintance with him, and last Sunday as I was going round with him he asked me to dinner again wh. I ascended to & walked with him from the Hospitall at 3 o Clock we dined at 5, Mrs. & Mr. C. were very plesant, & Mrs. C. & I taked over some old occurances, Miss C. is very difident, —

They are very much in the way of applying dry applications to Ulcers such as adhesive plaister, spread on Linen as we had some, & on paper a great deal, they put it on in long straps, they dont like greasy applications — but on the whole I have seen but very little new as yet I assure you — I am glad to hear Mr. Bridger is better, remember me to him, & other endearments to friends if you please. — I have crowded a little more [ . . . ] in my former Letters, – This morning we have [ . . . ] subjects brought into the dissecting room & one the day [ . . . ] Dr. shall I send you down an upper extremity in a deal box made close? What think you of it or will you stop untill it is colder – Attree has just bought a Head we are going to attack it tomorrow – The Lectures I do not go to are Cooper's Surgery wh. is Monys, Wedys, Fryys. at 8 o Clock in the Eveng. (Our Watch has now gone past 10 o Clock Star light night) I on Tuesday dined with Mr. Jackson in Compton St. Clarkinwell where I met the Smithfield family, & Mr. Wood who you know I believe is to have Miss Sarah – Mrs. Sparrow has lost a Sister living I dont know where, by name of Suttlefield or some what like it she died on a sudden & was 60 years old – so her spirits were a little affected, as you may suppose. At this moment I seem to have exhausted my stock of intelligence almost – Ann, I have not particularly seen any new fassions, Mrs. Whitfield is very fashionable in her dress, but to go to describe it I feel lost, it seems a thing quite new to me, she likes to see us dressd now, for dinner every day and so on, Attree is the most fashonable at present, & seems as you would suppose a very double cleaver fellow, as you may have seen some who can takk a great deal more than they can do, & eclipse an other who says little, think of this as you please, I have not yet bother an enough, if you will allow me the expression, tho: I shall do I make no doubt, —

Grace your lines were empressd on my mind much, & gave me great pleasure in your advising me, I should like to hear from you again very much, there was not an expression in it but was sensible it pleased me much, I assure you, when you write me again fill your letter as I have done —

How does Fanny doe, & how does she get on with this that & the other, — have you had any Balls Ann in the vicinity of Hurst – We have about 150 young men here more or less, more or less, young Ingram I hear comes next Week, we have some very cleaver fellows here also. Cooper Lectured to day Dr. D. & the only thing novell to me was a process calld vaginal process wh. surrounds the bottom of the Stiloid process, exclusive of this he is not near so prolix as we were I assure you, I must conclude with my best wishes to all — remain yours Father dutifully

HWeekes

Cloth pantaloons you have said nothing of – I cant do well without, for my cord Breeches are shabby.

## LETTER NO. 13

*From Richard Weekes, 28 October [1801]. Continued by Dick, Mary Ann, and Grace Weekes*

Hurstperpoint Oct. 28.

Dear Hampton

Your Letter arrivd this day Mrs. is not at home is at Stantons<sup>152</sup> for a week Dick & the Girls & I sat down to dinner & as soon as it was over read your Letter which gave us great pleasure first to hear you was well secondly to find Mr. Whitfield put such confidence in you as to entrust you with the care of so large an Hospital wish you may succeed him, we drank your health. —

We will bespeak you a pair of buck boots, pantaloons you will get in Town, I dont think but a little Porter is proper for you, Paynes House at Pyecombe<sup>153</sup> is not half finish'd so he is at Old Bines house that likewise is repairing for Tissington, Mrs. Beards house is repairing but goes on very slow, have put in new sashes, stopt up 2 in front & made a large window west end for a drawingroom above stairs<sup>154</sup>

I am glad to hear you go to Mr Clines, Sr. John Hayes goes to Town next week lives in old Burlington Street says he shall be glad to see you I would have you go & dine with him. but will send you more of this in my next —

We have been very much at leisure for several days past till Sunday last, in the 1st of the mornng.<sup>155</sup> I was sent for to Pollards wife at Poynings who has an Infln of the Plura while I was bleeding her Godly's Wife at Ditchg. sent out the man came to Poynings after me when I got to Grainnes's Gate met Mrs. Bridgers Man with his horse sweating profusely said Mrs. lay dead & had been near an hour as he had been to my home when I got there she was recoverd from a strong Convulsion fitt has had two before I think them of serious consequence rode home very fast, there was Godley teasing me when I got into the Shop there was Dr. Dick with Woolven's Son a lad abt. 15 or 16 years of age with his hand shatterd all to pieces by the Bursting of a Gun, he had put a Tourniquet on his Arm & layd him flat on his back, just at this instant, one of Chandler's Girls set her clothes on fire & is most terribly burnt while the man & his wife where at Church. I sent Woolven home & Dick went to Lindfield after Burtenshaw & Ward, I went to Ditchling & finding Mrs. Godly not likely to be deliverd in the course of the Afternoon rode across to Franklands when I got to broadstreet met Will; coming after me to go again to Mrs. Bridgers as she was worse got to Franklands Burtenshaw not come had not been there more than a quarter of an hour before Godly came again say'd I must come immediately however I stopt & Amputated the hand just above the Wrist the Dr. behav'd like a Lion then sent him

<sup>152</sup> The home of the Cripps family, who were friends and patients of Richard Weekes. Stantons, at East Chiltington, is a large yeoman's house dating back to 1570, and is now a farm (*Victoria County History of Sussex*, vol. 6, p. 100). In 1802, it belonged to John Cripps.

<sup>153</sup> See map.

<sup>154</sup> I.e., the Mansion House, almost opposite the Weekes' house. The two windows are still "stopt up" and painted to resemble windows.

<sup>155</sup> Richard must have travelled over twenty-five miles during these medical excitements. See map for the hamlets attended.

Letter No. 13

back to Mrs. B. & I to Ditchling & deliverd Mrs. G. with the Forceps at 3 next Morning. The lad is going on very well, Chandlers Daughter in a fair way, was sent for to Bolney also same day to Sander's Wife she is dead since. Dick brought the hand home & has dissected it, & we mean to put the bones together, Fanny is very well & grows very fat indeed never look'd so well, I believe I must turn Bull out soon his legs begin to swell & he goes Sluggish

You have said nothing about the Oak leaf we sent up with the Pears. I have nothing more to say that I can think of at present so shall leave the rest to Dick only that the Patcham people think 15. Guineas by far to much for Cutting Scrase's Son for the Stone & have not paid it —

God bless you Hamptoniman.

Majorca, I am afraid you will strut too much? dont you get in the wine vault and get Capseyse'd, there has been no Balls as yet. Quan Cap. &cc. are all well. Never mind abt. bother one word to the purpose is worth Twenty. A man of few words is always most attended to. I wear my best Buckskins Blue Coat, Red Wt. every Day and look Dashe. Old Strikelight has a shooting Jackett making just like mine and a round frock to clean shoes in (quite a Buck.) Get me a Paper Nautilus a Common Nautilus and some large Limpetts Venus Ear Shells and some others that you think I have not a Razor shell bason Conque shell &cc get them cheap well packed up and send them down by the Carrier immediately with the prises — Dr. Fordyce will tell you where to go and get them. there is some house on purpose, but where. I have forgot — Gett us the whole Apperatus for Injecting for the Hydrocele.<sup>156</sup> a small flat Trocar for Do. Satterley says you have not called on him you must tho. we performed the operation on old Batchelor of West Grinsted the other Day. — remember me to all and Write soon and Often. you give us no account of Cases, Operations &cc. Peruse our Letters always whilst writing to us. drink plenty of Porter wear a flannel waistt. besure —

Matts. Oct. 28. 1801

Dear Tony —

We like the Sofa very well — we have not yet sported it, in the Room we sit in — Mr. Cripps has been to the Pyramids, & is coming home, through Germany; I should like you to get me something fashionable, of a Bonnet, or hat, it must not Cost more than 10s.6d. & also something to wear, round my Shoulders, not a Black Cloak. or a Pelice the former, I have got, & the latter, is too expensive that must not exceed 10s 6d., — send it either by the Coach or the Carrier; here we are all 4, siting very comfortably by the little Parlour, fire, past 9 oClock Says our Watch.

adieu Tony, have you forgot to scratch your head, Yours

Mary Ann Weekes

<sup>156</sup> "An elastic gum bottle capable of containng about 6oz of fluid, fitted with a brass cylinder to receive a stopcock, which can be attached at leisure; a trocar and a cannula 2" long are also necessary." Astley Cooper, *Observations on the structure and diseases of the testis*, London, 1830, p. 184.)

*Letter No. 14*

Dear Brother —

I propose in a few days addressing you with a long letter, — We have just got up a great wash & Marianne & I are housekeepers I am glad to hear you have got so favorable a situation Pray exert yourself and do your best, Lidia Gander was married yesterday & today has sent me a large piece of wedding cake. My bird is well —

Good Night, my man, Grace —

**LETTER NO. 14**

*To Richard Weekes, 1 November 1801*

St. Thomas's Novr. 1 1801

Dear Father —

Yours I was favoured with yesterday, in which you speak of Sr. John Hayes's coming to Town when I shall be very happy to wait on him according to your wish; I wish he may have it in his power to place me into a good situation in life, but I believe it is not the safe way to build on any thing of the kind, but to trust to ones own exertions, in a great measure,

You also tell me of what a day Sunday was; it was indeed such a one as I never knew during the whole of my Apprenticeship, — Dr. Dick is got to be a famous fellow in Surgery, A question Dr. did you heal the Stump by the 1st. intention? as it is done here frequently in young subjects & good constitutions, & were there is a good portion of Cutis left, they apply here after the operation two straps of Emp: Adhaes: spread on Linnen about an Inch & ½ wide & 6 or 8 Inches long, crucially on the end of ye. Stump, at first a piece of Lint over it & a bandage, but very soon nothing but the Strapping & Bandage, Young Cline is fond of new applications has no opinion of greasy ones he says,

I long to hear of the Drs. going to Groanings as they call it your country, I hear daily of such anecdotes of young men going to the lying in house, just by, half a dozen of them to gether, I went with Attree out of curiosity when we got there there were 2 or 3 more, they stared at me & seemd a little difident, & when I had learnt the state of the case, well say they Sir & what do you think of it how does the case stand, & when will it be over, —

I have began this Letter not meaning to send it untill Tuesday which day Dr. Fordyce will be here & I will ask him your question, the Dr. is a Man of few words even to his most intimates, as for example in his taking his cases down every taking in day of his, every case of his is in very few words, I will give you one of his, & one of Dr. Listers,<sup>157</sup>

<sup>157</sup> William Lister (1757–1830), physician to St Thomas's Hospital. A sound safe man, chosen by Astley Cooper, who had no great love of physicians, to look after his wife and daughter.

Dr. F— Octr. 1mo.  
Elisth. Tremlett 26, Ante  
dies decem, accipio febrilis  
meridii, diarrhoea, pulsus  
frequens, parvus  
Rx. Bol. Rhab. comp - Ht. Arom:  
cū R. Opii gri. x 6tis. hora –  
Octr. 22 Vinum & Saleps –

Dr. L—  
Jane Dent Aet. 24, Per menses  
tres Catamenia suppressa, Capitis  
dolor, et vertigo, sanguinis vomitus  
et post inspiratio porfundae  
lateris dextri dolor, Tussis cum  
sputo multo, Aliquando epigastrii  
dolor et vomitus biliosus,  
Vesperi crura trement, —  
Rx. Episp. S.C. - Haust. Mag. Vitn. c  
Sen. - Mist. Menth. dil. c P. Ipec.  
gr.i. et Tn. Opii gri. v 8va. qua: hor;

It is not only in these individual cases but in every one he is very concise, – I have made myself book in wh. I enter each patient in the regular way as you see above, now if it serves no other perpose it will serve to make me conversant in reading Physicians praescriptions, We have 9 Physicians Pupills who attend the Physicians practice here, – Each day that Dr. Fordyce takes in he gives a Clinical Lecture to us 11 with Fixott & I, wh. neither of the other Physicians hitherto have done, in the Drs Lecture he speaks of many things that I remember to have seen in your Lectures, He says in fevers we may be employing the very best remedies & we may be employing the very wost we dont know & yet they may recover if so we are very ready to attribute their recovery to our medicines, He says again a person is never attacked with a fever in the night that they are always attacked first either at 6 at night or 6 in the morning or there about.<sup>158</sup>

Dr. Dick your orders I will exicute as soon as I have an oportunity, and yours to Miss Ann, in doing wh. I hope I shall give satisfaction, I farther hope also you will allow me sufficient time for it cant all be done in a Minute, – Ann in answer to your question I dont feel any particular reform to have taken place in me if you will allow me to ask you one question, it shall be how does Cur do? – Dr. I have seen two operations for Hydrocele performd here but in both a round Trocar was used & after evacuating a fluid some diluted red Wine in the one case was Used by Mr. Cooper, in the other a solution of Vitr: Album was injected this last was perform'd yesterday, in neither case did the patient express hardly any pain, the injection is containd in a vegitable bottle, wh. apperatus I will send you down – Now for Mr. demonstrator he certainly is not such a cleaver fellow in knowing the Muscles every one of them for I see him frequently refering to Innes, (wh. is a very good work on the subject saying nothing of ours) for the origin & insertion of a Muscle, but he has eloquence beyond what I have I think, but I dont know, to morrow we have a demonstration on ye. Viscera of the Abdomen, indeed ye. language is every thing — This Innes wh. work I have just tho: [. . .] of I think I must send you down it is a small [. . .]urs, well

<sup>158</sup> These were amongst the last lectures Fordyce gave. His great reputation as a teacher was founded upon his course of lectures given throughout the winter on the top floor of his house in Essex Street since 1764. Six times a week he started at seven in the morning and went on until ten, giving sensible, practical details of treatment. The copy of the lectures that Whitfield took down in 1792 consists of six thick 4to volumes. STHMS M60; see also M58 and M59 for other transcripts.

Letter No. 14

arranged & many of the Muscles have [ . . . ] names, iss not quite so large as a volume of ye. Spectator I will give you a few of the new names, instead of Serratus Minor Anticus it is Pectoralis Minor, again Levator Scapulae, also Levator Labii superioris Alaque nasi & severall others this work Cline describes the Muscles by, – Instead of the Head wh. I spoke of I have got an upper extremity wh. is 9s. to dissect nearly for the Muscles, if; Father you wish me to make any preparation inform me in your next, I dont see myself that it is particularly necessary, – Dr. shall I send you down a Larynx with the Os Hyoides, I dissected one & gave to one of the fellows, such a thing as that is valued at about 2s.6d. — Now for Buck Boots, crimping at the instep is quite out of fassion, neither do they have any tongues at the instep quite plain, & stiff Legd, tell, Randles to make them round toed & rather longer in the Foot than my last Shoes were for they were too short, I should wish them not to be doubled about in packing. I had a trifling dispute the other day in the dissecting room I maintaind that the Lacrymal duct or ductus ad Nasum passd from under the inferior Concha narium, or turbinated bones as they are calld, three other Chaps who appeard very wise said it was from under the superior Concha, but they were soon convinced to the contrary when I took up a recent Skull



I am more in this room than any other part of the Hospl. I think generally we have some famous subjects I assure you I am quite fond of the place, I take up my Innes & trace out the Muscles frequently, few fellows appear to have had the same Medical education that I have, persecute on Dr. you shall have your reward, —

I attend very close to Lectures and so dont transcribe any for I seem to have been acquainted with the great outline before any thing that strikes me I note, — I must think of leaving room for Dr. Fordyce's answer, — Is Bull afraid of Carriages now what corn do you give him, has he fell down with you Dr. hold him up tight, – How does the Garden go on you say nothing about flowers – Dr. I have severall Fossills in my Eye, rather dear Dr. how far shall I go for this that & the other? As for Fluoric Acid It cant be procured as I can find, I have enquired about it, you must make some by pouring Sulphuric Acid upon Fluuate of Lime it will then be given out in Gass and ye. Sp. Acid will unite with the Lime, — Is it not so Messrs, Chemysts? Adieu Your dutifully

Hampton Weekes

Tuesday Novr. 3d.

Dr. Fordyce says, I dont know what, you must excuse me for I could not see him to day,

Dr. Dick, I found two Pyriform muscles to day on each side seperated by the Sciatic Nerve.

*Letter No. 15*

I have been to two plays with the family since my last, ye. one was Trip to Scarborough with Iodowisca, the other ye. School for Scandal and Blue beard.

I did not tell you of two respectl. patients, Whitfield desired me to call on daily, while he was away.

I have a valuable case wh. I will give you in my next of a Boy 12 Years of age in whom inflamm. began soon after the operation of Trepaning wh. was got ye. better of by copious evacn.

**LETTER NO. 15**

*To Richard (Dick) Weekes, 1 November 1801. Postscript in French to Grace Weekes*

St. Thomas's Nov 1st 1801

Dear Brother —

This Letter like my Fathers was began Sunday Evening, in conforming to your desire of Writing a Letter to Dr. Dick and was intended to be put into the General Post Office with the other —

You censure me for writing so large & write very so your self that's like an old Aunt who wrote to her Niece to join her Letters when not one of her own were near each other excuse the simily. —

I am now about to begin Anatomically how many ligaments hath the liver peculiar to it? & how are they formd my Boy.

How does Mercury act on Venereal Virus? I suppose you will retalliate upon me in your next if so pray write neat, small, & close,

What think you of the old Women by this time? will you be a Farmer or a Doctor?

How comes on Honey Breads I have heard nothing of him? has he pay'd his Rent?

How get you on with Botany? Ask Grace if elle savoit tres bien la science que jai justement vous demandè, et quand elle plaira à me ecrire un Lèttre Francois si ta voulois; je sauroit très bein aise de lire un fort longue.

We dont use the same sort of Tourniquet as you do, Ours is a simple ligature passd the extremity with a leather pad on the Artery then thro: a piece of leather wh. has two holes in it, then a nott is tied & piece of stick like a handle of a bolus knife something, this is twisted more or less, it is more simple than yours wh. you have to unscrew, in ours you have only to twist or untwist,

Cooper's description of the Muscles is vastly pretty when you know something of them young Cline; the demonstrator, & the Apprentice to Cooper all gett into the little dissecting Room opposite the Theatre, they dont like to admit any one else in, tho: I will do what I can, to make one, there always was and ever will be advantages in those situations where one is placed above an other, such as Apprentice to the Hospitall as Cline is the only one, again, Apprentices to each of the Surgeons, also dresser's, —

These gentlemen I have just mentiond dissect for Lecture,

Mr. & Mrs. Whitfield Attree & I we all went to St. Thomas's Church to day, the

Letter No. 15

Clergy Man's name is Hodgkin, it was his Wife who Mr. W. beg'd I would visit during his absence, she is somewhat Hypochondiacle, who you know want a great deal of talking to, she has got a very smart daughter but no Money, so wont do you know

The first day Chemistry began Dr. B. brought forth great many diferent sorts of earths such as Manganese, Fluate of Lime, Sulphate of Lime, with many others with Rhomboidal, pyramidal, hexahaedral & octahaedral Spars, all this you will like very well.

Mr. Whitfield is somewhat of a naturalist he has got a petrified Toad Stool, a fungus I should have said should not I being a Botanist.

What are the present topics at your smoaking parties now, are they of Parish buisness, what do they say of peace is it an honourable one or no.

What pretty broil have you in your Village? there is always a something you know

How does Mrs. Baker do? does her old Cock come into our Yardd? – How does Maam do? I believe you know who I mean —

Monday Morng, Breakfast, Hannington<sup>159</sup> has just calld, & given Me Graces Letter, which I have answerd as you will see, it is now 2 o Clock I am just come from Lecture, I am going this evenin at 5 o Clock to begin dissecting a verry fi[. . .] extremity (I changed an upper one for [. . . . .] not near so fresh,) myne is that of a Woman about 30 Phthoric & strong I mean it only for Muscles so dont inject it, ask my Father if he recommends me to save the Bones after dissection, there is ½ the Sacrum & one half of 4 Lumbar Vertebrae, if he says I had better I had as good clean the Bones well & pack them carefully up, – or run the hazard of macerating them here wh. is one I assure you, – I feel no inclination particularly myself I assure you, Answer me this by return of Post if you please, I am going to take great pains with this my disection, — To day we have had a Rat 2 Feet nine Inches long from tip to tip for I saw it measured, it died yesterday having been encaged I dont know how long it has been castrated. —

Ma chere Seur —

Vous voyez que je n'ai pas beaucoup de place pour vous dire aucun chose a present, mais je commenceraut de vous dit que il est un mote de Francois pour Dick, vous me dit qu'il n'est pas ausi de Francois pour Bob, je ne contendroit pas pour cla, Je regardent au si tot que je pauvois dans le papier de nouveaux, et plus que cle je suis bien aise d'entender, i'faut que vous m'excusè si je ne m'expressè pas toute juste pasque je n'ai pas un Gramier Francois isi a present, je reste votre amis toujours, Hampton Weekes.

Je entendre toute les contentes de votre Lèttre François moins que robes d'ètoffe, Vous regardè que jai vous adresser un sentence en Francois, j'espère que vous ne veux pas ètre satirical, de me jugè beaucoup pasque je ne veux pas vous conpiroit pour votre Lèttre, mais il ètois un place ou deux ou je pouvois vous donnerè un bon coup je croit, et je suis sure q'il est ausi des place ou vous pouvois un jugè, je n'ai pas a present aucun chose de vous dire seulement que je beaucoup vous remercie pour votre Lèttre q'il ètoit bien affectionè.

<sup>159</sup> The Hannington family lived in Hurst and were friends of the Weekes.



LETTER NO. 16

To Mary Ann Weekes, 2 November 1801

St. Thomas's Nov 2d. 1801

Dear Sister —

Thinking this a convenient opportunity of transmitting a few more lines to Matts shall begin by saying that I could not prevail on Hanington to go into the dissecting room this morning, I intend if I can to going call on him at the half Moon when I think of sending the Apperatus Dr. Dick spoke of Laundy tells me it will cost 14 or 15 shillings, it will be very convenient certainly I cannot say if it will please, can only say he will take it back again if it dont,

As to your orders I cannot at present think of attendin to so you must excuse it for if I am gone from the Hospital for two hours only I loose something,

After leaving Hanington to day about 10 oClock I went immediately to Lecture in which tell Dr. Dick that Dr. Babington recommends during continued fever Rx. Serpent Virg. contus Contrayeru contus ana dr. iii

Mind this is

after an Emetic

& a Laxative has

been given,

Aq. fervent: unc x iv Macera et liquorem

cola, cui adde Tinct. Serpent. unc. j.

et Syr: Unc. ss. dentur cochlearia

tria, sexta quaque hora —

Nearly during the continuance of the fever not when there are intermissions for then of course he resorts to the Bark in as large a quantity as ye. patient will bear —

Tea time and I have just been to Laundy's for the instrument which costs 15 shillings an sixpence if my Father dont like it he will take it again but begs he would not use it, I could not get it any cheaper.

I am now just thinking of going to carry these Letters to Hanington, & dont know that he will be able to take the instrument, who ever writes next I beg I may be answerd all my questions and lines written as close as mine are —

I am glad my Father had advertized for an Apprentice,<sup>160</sup> — I did not suspect the Patcham Psh. would object so strongly to the Bill,

As to money when I have bought my Pantaloons the Instrument & an Extremity, with the two Plays I went to the other day I believe it will be Moll Thompson with me<sup>161</sup>

Attree sits just before me with my book and the large book of Plates and seems to fagg away he is a mind to assist in my dissection which I begin upon to morrow, I shall do the same when he gets an extremity, — You percieve this is my generall topic for I assure you I am very fond of it, I remember to have hear'd my Father say his hands he could never gett ye. smell off it is so with me, we have no ground Oats now in the

<sup>160</sup> *Weekly Advertiser; or Lewes Journal*, 2 and 9 November 1801: "Wanted, an apprentice to a Surgeon and Apothecary . . . For further particulars please to apply to Mr. Weeks, Surgeon of Hurstperpoint." It was advertised that the newspaper could be seen every Monday at The White Hart Inn, Borough, which was very near St Thomas's, and at various coffee houses in the City.

<sup>161</sup> I.e., Hampton would have no money left.

*Letter No. 17*

room as in his time it is not forth coming nor Surringes nor any thing else without ye. hard cash, I wont let them take me in if I can help it,

Two Men were hanged this morning and Fixott went to see them, I would not, for it has been very whet all the day —

I have not inform'd you of Fixott's having lost the same fore tooth as I have, we went to gether the other day to Parkinsons with an intent he did of having one put in I not so sanguin when we got there he was advised not to it for young Parkinson said that in the course of a few years the two on each side would come out so that instead of one the would be aloss of three, then we came home contented never to think of ever having a falsity —

Hanington saw Fixott to day, he will tell you how he talks like a French man —

Young Ingram is come up and, is writing I think a confused affair of the Muscles as Cooper describes them, he appears to have a very superfisial idea of them as far as I have seen, he has not entered to dissections and says he shall not before [ . . . ]

He asked me to day if I took my meals [ . . . ] Whitfields, he has no idea of the excellency of the situation,

I, I assure you, am said to be a good Anatomist. I believe thro: the Medium of Attree, for he is for ever asking me what muscle is this and that.

I am known by almost every one and I find there is a little jealousy among some of the cleaver fellows wh. you are not surprised at I suppose

It is time I went with my Letters so must begin to conclude – Tell dick that in my copy of Muscles there is no Psoas Parvus but this Muscle I have seen, but it does not always exist, it arises with the Magnus but is inserted into the junction of the Illium with the Os. Pubis, Farewell Adieu I remain Yours affectony.

Hampton Weekes

My Fathers Letter waits only for me to ask Dr. Fordyce about the Leaf for I have not had the opportunity of so doing. That is filled fuller than either of these and will arrive on Friday I believe.—

John Attree made one with us at the Play at Drury Lane the other night to see the School for scandal with bue Beard he was in Town 3 or 4 days, — You and I have talked over some of the scenes in Blue Beard I remember, Tink a Tink and so forth it did not answer My expatation of it I assure you, — The other Play was a Trip to Scarborough with Lodawisky as I have said in my Fathers Letter.

**LETTER NO. 17**

*From Richard Weekes, [n.d. - November 1801]*

Hampton

In the first place Dick tells me that with respect to the ligaments of the liver he can easily find them out by looking into Winslow<sup>162</sup> & with respect to the action of

<sup>162</sup> Jacques Winslow (1669–1760), *An anatomical exposition of the structure of the human body*, 6th ed., 1772.

Mercury it is very easy to amuse young Men with any & almost every hypothesis but be assur'd by me they know nothing about it nor indeed is the *modus operandi* of hardly any of the Medicines known, & as for your Infusion of Serpentry & Contraerva it is as old as Adam is to be seen in every Dispensary for this 3 or 4 hundred years, it is a stimulant & may tend to excite perspiration but they rather hurt the Stomach & certainly are much inferior to Wine – *In vino veritas, In vino salutas* Wine is better than all the articles of the *Materia medica* individually or conjointly

---

John Breads has not been to Hurst has not done the Stable nor many other things suppose I shall not see him much before Christmas, the Doctor is much pleased with the business now & seems to give good satisfaction,

Grace has not apply'd herself to Botany this she shall do next Summer she has study'd Concology pretty well writes the greek type very well enters all her memorandums &c. in that hand, She condemns your French much, I hope you will improve in the language by the help of Mr. Fixott.

Let me have one of those Tourniquets that is used in the Hospital with leather Pad &c. very exact, get into the little dissecting room as much as possible, when I was there some times a pot of Porter would do a good deal, but perhaps they dont drink Porter now in the dissecting room —

When you have dissected the lower extremity take the Muscles off the bones as clean as you can then bore them with a Gimlet, & pack them up close with some Hay & send them to us & we will macerate them, There is only one preparation that I shd. like to have & that is the Pelvis of a Male the Bladder and Rectum fill'd with Wax the Penis injected & perhaps the Testes but of that I shd. not be particular the vas deferense, the Spermatic Artery's & Vein, if the Corpora cavernosa & corpora spongosa of the Penis was well fill'd the urethra also what a pretty idea it would give of Lythotomy, Castration puncturing the bladder &c. &c. &c. such a preparation well done is worth 2 Guineas, Dr. Hayes is gone to Town. – Our Patients stump does not heal by the first intention we dust it just in the way you mention but he is doing very well.

I like Dr. Fordyce better than any of them, I remember his saying he was not fond of Stimulants nor blistering in fevers unless it was particularly pointed out by the Symptoms it is the common practice with many practitioners to blister from head to foot this I much dislike, I like the Apparatus for the Hydrocele very much it is the very thing I wanted. – how long does the injection remain in I suppose about 10 minutes & what the after treatment, I have cur'd two or 3 however without difficulty by injection small Caustic & simple puncture, as for the names of the muscles it is of less consequence if you know them by some appropriate name every other is vastly easy, send the Dr. a Larynx.

How often have I desir'd you to go over the Muscles, the Nerves, the bloodvessels &c. you shd. have learnt it by heart – transcribe nothing but what strikes you as new & what you knew not before, Attend closely to their management in fevers & the lesser cases in Surgery, most young men run to see the Capital operations & neglect the lesser cases wth. which is of more consequence, their manner of applying bandages<sup>163</sup> reducing fractures their splints &c. & buy me something of every thing that you think we want and is useful – Bull is as much affraid of Carriages as ever we

*Letter No. 18*

dont like him, he looks thin & eats but little Corn lately after dark I met some the Danny Servants in the Sandfield<sup>164</sup> he stopt turnd short round & was runing away a cross the field I pulld him in & he raisd & plunged 2 or 3 times he will not bare much feed in him. – dont buy any fossil's nor shells but such as Dick has mentiond to you a fossil Again I would not give a guinea for.

Chymistry is a very pleasing science & is what [. . .] shd. be acquainted with, the Ductus adnasum opens below the Conchee narium inferior, the opening of of the Maxilliary Sinus between both —

I have enclosed two Two pound notes that you may not be put to any inconvenience for want of Cash. I want to know what will become of all the Surgeons instruments belonging to the Army & Navey are they returnd to government or are they the property of the Surgeons, if the latter I think they may be got at cheap make enquiry,

I am sincerely Yours &c.  
RWeekes

Hurst. Nov. 6.

pacific Diaphoretic 1 and 2 grs.

Calomel. 1797 - 118266

A common convulsive affection that always attends on women of the diaphragm risus Sardonicus, involuntary Laughter.

**LETTER NO. 18**

*From Richard Weekes, 9 November 1801*

Hurst Nov. 9th. at night

Hampton

Bill Marshall having sent us a Hare for you this day I have sent it accordingly, he & uncle Ned are now playing Cards in the Nursery while I am writing — the Hare was killd this day therefore will keep several days.

Mrs. Bridger the Elder of Albourne wishing me to get her a Quarter Tickett in the Irish Lottery (& which is to be kept a secret) I have sent you the money to procure a quarter Tickett for her the price of which is £2. 4. 0., Dick and I also mean to have a quarter tickett & Tertius & Uncle Ned a quarter making in the whole 3 quarter ticketts, you will have them registerd one in Mrs. B. name one in my name & one in Mr. Edwd. B. name - the registering is 6 pence each, Enclosed I have sent you Bank of England notes Value 6£ so the 13s.6 you may pay out of your stock which I sent you on Saturday

—

<sup>163</sup> "Neatness and dexterity in the application of bandages ought to be particularly attended to, which if well performed will in a great measure gain the confidence of the patient." Astley Cooper's lectures on surgery taken down by George Davies 1808, p. 3. STHMS M38.

<sup>164</sup> The drive from Danny to the High Street at Hurst passes the Sandfield pond.

*Letter No. 18*

Let me hear from you soon & inclose the three quarter ticketts, be expeditious as the lottery begins drawing the 16th. instant the numbers I leave to you

Watson is not gone from Cuckfield but I believe he will go soon if he knows where to go his Wife & Children are gone but the peace coming on I believe has disappointed him, & to my great surprise Burtenshaw is going to leave Lindfield directly, does not know where he is going it is so said but perhaps he is going to Cuckfield The further page next by mistake they say he has taken to Drinking lately - & some people think it is on account of Miss Woods Marriage with John Bull but of this I dont know, I believe Ward gets the greatest share of business, I was talking to Mr. Goring of Highden the other day at Bridgers about Penfold of Steyning if he was about giving up business I said I wished you could succeed him he said he thought Penfold might be spoke with on that subject - & seemd to wish I would place you there — Young Ingram I believe would not be a powerful opponent but of this business you must not drop a word to no one

Dick has got a great name for tooth drawing & he is not a little pleasd with it, rode the Bull [. . .] to day, says as you did that he wants to go just on the edge of the wheel rut I think he is a little lame in the near fore leg perhaps the splint on that leg occasions it as he has been rode very gently. —

Mr. Payne is making a famous Road down the newtimber dale has got 6 men at work, & they flint it as they go it is wide enough for 2 Carriages. Mrs. P. is brought to bed, I dind at Bethells the other day Raikes asked after you & was very civil him and Newnham call'd here yesterday but as we where at dinner did not come in, Gates from Steyning was here yesterday he says he shall call on you at Xmas

If Dick Hamshar & John Bull call on you be very civil to them but dont shew every country fellow into the dissecting room it makes such a noise in the Country abt. cutting up human subjects. —

We have had most tremendous flood's here half leg deep over the Clappers near Twineham Green —

Betty Turner at Cowfold is married to a little Butcher at Horsham, Lydia Gander to Ned Steele, & Tom Friend they say to night is going to be married to one of the Muzzles at Newtimber but I dont believe it, Miss Beaty is married at last to Bartlett the groom at Danny —

I saw Mrs. Attree of Brighton the other day she is very well she & I where comparing notes a little. —

Our old Hen Pigeon has got a Cock & bred two young ones in the house we let them fly & now they are all gone

We have just began our Rick of Hay & it proves exceeding good the best we have had it is not so much heated as before

Allen & Turner of Lindfield are valueing all the lands of this Parish in order to equallise the poor rate

Grace says you must not forget her I suppose she means you must write a few lines to her when you write to me again, What are your Boots to be lin'd with are they to be lind with Kid & what colour

I have bespoke two Kalmea's the Latifolia and Angustifolia with a Peach tree of Mr. Hosey. In Dr. Dungates Garden are some very fine Pairs I should like to get

*Letter No. 19*

some grafts in the spring to engraft on our trees we had 31 large Pears on our young tree on the left hand one only on the other which I have not tasted yet, the 2 young parsley leavd Grape trees I have movd to the other side, the New england Michaelmas Daisey is very fine, how is it you dont call on Sowerby, we expect some rarities soon, Mrs. saw Fan to day she is very well I have no room for any more so conclude Yours &c

R. Weekes

**LETTER NO. 19**

*To Richard Weekes, 10 November 1801*

St. Thomas's Novr. 10th. 1801

Dear Father —

I have some news to impart to you that partakes of pleasantness, that I think will entertain you,

Just before I recieved your last I was shewing Dr. Fordyce the Oak leaf; to look at which he put on his Spectacles, & I thought did not appear to be very conversant with the appearances however he said he would take it home & make enqueries, He made mention at first sight that he thought it of Animal production, that is not my opinion, nor I believe yours,

I then enquired of him where I could go to purchase some Shells, he lookd rather hard at me & said what shells, I made mention of the Paper Nautilus, and common Nautilus, & farther said I had a Brother that had a Museum, of Minerals and Shells, He then said if I would wait on him on Monday or Tuesday between 10 & 11 oClock he would shew me the kind of Shell meang. the Paper Nautilus, for I had been asking him what he supposed they might cost, — What do you think of this? Dr. Dick, —

The Dr. told me I should be asked from two to three Guineas a piece for a good Paper Nautilus, this struck me as being quite out of the question, he farther told me that I might get some at No. 26 Gerrard Street Soho, — You are now looking forward to my calling on the Dr. in Essex Street I suppose — Well; On the Monday, wh. was Lord Mayors day, it being a holliday at the Hospital, for Cline, Cooper, Babbington neither of them Lecturing, I thought it a pretty opportunity of sallying forth So immediately after Breakfast poasted away to the Dr.'s & arrived finding him at Breakfast taking Chocolate & dry toast, he did not know me at first, he begd I would sit down during wh. time his servant was buckling his Shoes & puting on his Stock after he had done come says he walk with me so away we went up stairs, he opend a door & stood still meaning I should walk in first & behold it was both beautifull & curious beyond description, One half the collection is Birds stuffd of the most beautifull of their Species of great variety of colours; — Great numbers of Fossils, Earths, Minerals & Shells, of great rarieties, He found his Keys then opend a draw in wh. were about 8 or 10 Paper Nautilus's of diferent sizes, but in all I found there were but four Species wh. is all indeed, The Genus as you know Dr. is called Argonauta,

the 1st. species of wh. is Argo, as Dr. Fordyce had it marked for I took them all down, the 2d. species Nodosa, 3d. Hians, & 4th. Navicula, there is no very great difference to all appearance only in the one having the spines standing wider apart than an other; another difference is the nodosa has eminences on the outer side more than the Argo has; it being fluted externally; The one I have sent you Dr. is the 1st. Species, & I hope as well that as every other Shell, I have sent you will give you satisfaction; remember the of is like buying a Horse difficult to please, but Mr. Humphry says if they do not please he will take them again, but he hopes they will be well packed, – Excuse me I find I am going on little too fast, for I am at present in the Drs. cabinet, and after seeing the Argonauta, he shewd me the common Nautilus, both Species. as you know there are but two, according to Linneus, tho: you will see in the Catalogue I have sent you there is an Umbilicatus, he shewd me the Scrobiculatus species of wh. there is but one more in Europe he told me; it differs from the Pompilius in its having a remarkable indentation on each side, yours is the Pompilius as you will see by the Bill, the Dr. has Minature Temples the Pillars & indeed the whole covered with minute Shells, of different kinds, Also a large bunch of Flowers of great variety of Species, placed in a Vase of about 8 or 10 Inches, in height, also covered with minute shells, with a Glass covering it; After all this the Dr. & I walked down stairs, I thanked him extremely for his kindness and was very civil,<sup>165</sup> He desired me to say that I came recommended from him to a Mr. Foster, in Soho, as I have said before, Well upon my arrival there it was between 12 & 1, Mr. R. was not at home was in Russia, Mrs. was very attentive when I said who I came from, she had but just removed into the house, & had not unpacked a single thing, but she said she at any time should be very glad to shew me any thing her House afforded, there I saw Echinus's several species some from the East – some from the West Indies, others from the Mediterranean one from the East valued at 20 guineas, other most curious productions, however she recomd. me to her Brother who has bought Monsieur Callone's collection, who is living in Leister House, Leicester Square, in the very House our present King was born in. Over the door was written, Mr. Humphry's museum late M. Callone's<sup>166</sup> 1 shilling admittance. In I went said from whom I was come & what I wanted, they had lately had a sale, they gave me a catalogue one of wh. I have sent you down wh. will aid you in your studies, I told him he must be as reasonable as he could & am satisfied he has been from what Dr. F. said, I hope I have not exceeded my commision, Another time be so good as to mention the sum I am not to exceed, You will find arrived A large bason conque Shell, or Clamp, the generic name of wh. is Iridacna, – A paper Nautilus – A common Nautilus – Two venus Ears – wh. he did not charge for, a Bill of wh. you will see, I was very much entertained there, I asked him if he knew Mr. Payne he said yes, the Bill of the Shells I have sent as you will see, I saw the large Cocks combe-Oyster or South Sea; the size

<sup>165</sup> “Dr. Fordyce was one of the most intimate friends of Dr. William Hunter; the trustees of whose celebrated Museum, in addition to Dr. Fordyce were Dr. Pitcairn and Dr. Combe. These latter, being dead, Dr. Fordyce, the only survivor, kept the keys of the cabinets and the book cases, and occasionally gratified parties of his pupils with the inspection of this magnificent collection of works of Art and Nature, rich in gems, medals coins, and minerals.” Thomas Martin, ‘The sixty years since’, *Br. med. J.*, 1864, ii: 32. The collection is now in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.

<sup>166</sup> G. Humphrey Calonian Museum, 5 Leicester Square.

*Letter No. 19*

of a Plate about 6 or 8 shillings the more clean & finished they are the more they charge for them, Impressions of Fern on Coal Slate from 3 to 10 Shillings Mammilate Echinus's from new South Wales about 8s. the Shell, High admirals from 10s.6d. to £1. 10s.6d, - Gloria Maris or Voluta of da Costa were sold at £30 at the last sale, - Dr. you will see by the Catalogue what you wish if any send me word how far you would have me go — Young Cline has taken lodging in St. Thomas's Street for convenience of attending the Lectures of an Evening he asked me to come and play Chess with him to day, I shall have an opportunity often of calling on him, he is a little stilish now just I think as you would wish me nothing out of the way he has his Buck Boots his shirt collar over his Neck Cloth but by no means a Puppy, he attends very close to his professional pursuits, —

I am just come from tea, & recieving your kind present which obliges me very Much, Mrs. W. is gone to see her little Boy at Uxbridge sometimes, & sometimes at Denham wh. is 18 Miles, I payd 1s.6d. portorage for the Hare from the Elephant & Castle, it is a very nice one indeed, — I hope I may be able to get the three quarter tickets<sup>167</sup> in time to morrow to send them by the Carriers Waggon, with the paying the 13.6 for the tickets for the Tourniquet, the Pantaloons, my washg. wh. is no small payment having little else but white waist coats each of wh. I can wear but one day; also for ye. instrument for Hydrocele, for my extremity & a few trifling &cs. you will be satisfied I cannot buy no more such Shells, tho: they were such as the Dr. had not got otherwise I would not have gone so far, —

I will now proceede on again, upon leaving Humphry I made the best of my way down to Blackfriars bridge it being the time the Mayor was to land there, before I got there & going along Fleet St, I met two of the Bines & young Rd. Marchant, so we shook hand and parted after having a little parlè, - before I got into Fleet Market there was a crowd as you may suppose and the Streets very dirty, tho: I did with difficulty get to the Staire at the bridge and saw the Mayor's barge, the Stationer's Company & Apothecaries these being the only three that landed where I was, It was foggy & afforded me very little entertainment,<sup>168</sup> I thought now I had a moment to spare I would make for Vauxhall, to see an old School fellow brother to Rd. Snelson of Reygate the Boat cost me two shillings, & my dinner one for I went into a bakers for some dry cakes, that being cheaper than going into a Pastry Cooks that was all I had till 6 oClock at wh. time I arrived at Vauxhall, Snellson had just come from Reygate where he had been staying a Month, he is a cleaver serious sort of a chap understands a great deal of Chemistry. He is learning the Pottery business, in a large way as you may suppose, it is the young Man that was going to Mr. Hoper's in the Cliff Lewes, I took my tea with him & he walked to the Boro: with me, - thus ended Lord Mayors day with me, for I studdy to please you more than to gratify my own curiosity. - Old Cripps calld on me on Sunday but I was not at home, for I was gone to call on Satterley for the first time, when I got there he was gone to hear a condemd. Sermon at Newgate as he said, - Cripps left a card saying he should be happy to have

<sup>167</sup> The state lottery was well worth winning. That drawn in March 1802 offered £500,000 in prize money, ranging from four first prizes of £20,000 to 18,000 of £18.

<sup>168</sup> In 1813, South in a similar day off, was greatly impressed by the water procession (op. cit., note 47 above, p. 39).



Letter No. 20

me spend an Evening with him at Iveson's Hotel Westminster, but I wrote a note to him saying I could not possibly have it in my power for Lecture and one thing and the other, for it will not do to be running away for one nonsense or an other, neither will I and that's more, I hardly think I will go any where and be like a Cockney who never thinks of seeing rarities as a Country Man does, —

The Bines and Marchant called here to day, but they did not go into the dissecting room either at St. Thomas's or Guys.

(see the next sheet)

[Continued in Letter 20]

LETTER NO. 20

St. Thomas's Tuesday Evng.  
Novr. 10 - 1801 -

I really have not time to go it all over to see if it is correct, so you must excuse it, — Dr. Fordyce does not know what is on the leaf yet.

The Bines after going into a Ward or two at Guys and seeing the incurable Lunatics, left us about ½ past 1. oClock wh. is Cline's Lecture time & to tell you the truth I was glad when they were gone, Well during the time I was at Lecture Cripps came so I was then called out but he did not detain me long.

When the Bines came I was cleaning my Bones & have bored holes in them & cleaned them pretty clean last night a little nasty dog was in the dissecting room shut up there for some experiment or other & made free with the Os Cuboides & the falanges of the little Toe, for wh. I have substituted part of an other foot, The Sacrum you will see a remarkable curvedness of, appearing as if she had sat a great deal, there was two other rather singular things, one wh. was a Sesamoid bone on the Os Naviculare of the Tarsus, the other that of the great Sciatic nerve being in two instead of one & dividing the Pyriform Muscle in its passage, or rather passing between two as Winslow says, but they unite in one common tendon so that I think they cannot be made separate, Cooper says he never saw the Nerve divided so high up,

The Tourniquet I have tied as if it was just going to made use of, the principle of wh. you will see with ½ an Eye, It is certainly a very good one, it costs only 2s.6d,

We have a practice of piercing the Tympanum in excessive deafness, but an attempt is made only where there is no noise or ringing in the Ears, or where a Watch cannot be heard placed between the Teeth,<sup>169</sup> — Now I dont think it would be worth

<sup>169</sup> Cooper had read a paper to the Royal Society in 1800 claiming to have restored hearing in two patients by myringotomy. A further paper in 1801, based on the study of over twenty patients, recommended the operation for patients deaf because of negative pressure in the middle ear caused by obstruction of the Eustachian tube. 'Observations on the effects which take place from the destruction of the membrana tympani of the ear', *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lond.*, 1800, 90: 151; 'Further observations on the effects which take place from the destruction of the membrana tympani of the ear, with an account of an operation for the removal of a particular species of deafness', *ibid.*, 1801, 91: 435.

trying in Thos. Pratts case it is too desperate dont you think it has done some extraordinary cures, it gives no pain, it is done by a common pointed Probe passd as far as the Tympanum then push'd suddenly for ye. 8th. of an Inch farther so as to pierce it.

I hope the Shells have arrived safe, as well as the Bones &c. the Box I have given 1s.2d. for to day in Cannon Street so that this commission has occupy'd my thoughts lately as you must suppose,

I just looked into Merchant Taylors Cloisters in my way to Satterley's on Sunday were I saw Myrian & Walsh two of the Genmen<sup>170</sup> that dined with me on Fish Street Hill they were very glad to see me, the latter has just lost his Election and is going in a day or two as Cadet to the East Indies where when he arrived I begd of him to write to me & direct to me at Hurst, he took my address & promised me he would I farther told him he should not forget me if he saw any thing curious, that Dr. was fond of curiosities, he said he would not if he had an opportunity, he has made me as list out of the Boys that were Cotempore with me,

I understood Jno. Dodson was at M. T. on their doctors day, he did not call on me, I think I see their little jealousy of me they dont very well like my renewing my acquaintance there I know,

Adams not lodging at Cherry's<sup>171</sup> I did not see him I suppose you think it is time I began to answer more particularly your Letters, – Yours of the 6th. of Novr. begins with Dr. D's answer to my question of the Ligaments of the Liver, wh. is indeed no answer at all, his being able to look into Winslow, you say next of the antiquity of the Serpentary, it is so with many other things here they are nowise new, but in *Vino veritas* as you observe, I heard Dibdin sing that song the night I was there,

I am not surprised at Breads's not having finished the Stable for, it is just like the man, unfinished, Will he do; at last or will he not;

I am glad the Dr. is well approved of, & gives satisfaction You speak of a preparation you should like, it would be a curious one, as to the Bladder's being filled with Wax I think if distended with Air & a section made of it when dry wd. be better, I suppose you would have all the Cutis detached around the urethra & Ani & to have a dry praeparation made of it; so varnished, – Will you have me attempt it, if so send me word when you write again,

The injection for Hydrocele does not remain in more than five minutes, the treatment after, nearly the white wash and retained in a bag Truss, & symptoms corrected as they indicate,

Dr. I have been particular in learning the Muscles of the Scapula, there are 7 proper to the Scapula, So Cooper says, I think eight might be said meaning the biceps, flexor Cubitus, wh. I think is as proper to it as the Coraco Brachialis, what think you of it Dr?

<sup>170</sup> Myrian untraceable in the Merchant Taylors' records. Robert Walsh attended the school 1791–1801 and later served in the Royal Navy. On Election Day, at the beginning of June, students were elected to scholarships at Pembroke and St John's Colleges, Oxford. On Doctor's Day, the last day of the December term, the boys and staff were examined by university lecturers.

<sup>171</sup> Richard Adams (b. 1785). Cherry is untraceable.

*Letter No. 20*

Cooper's 7 are ye. 2 Spinatus's, 2 Teres's, Deltoides, Subscapularis, & the Coraco brachialis, – As to the Levator Scapulae it does not arise from 4 or 5 transverse processes, but only from 2, Trapezius, Rhomboides, Extensor Triceps Brachii arises by one head from ye. Scapula, also ye. Serratus major Anticus, wh. muscle digitates at its insertion with the Obliquus decedens Externus, The Omo Hyoidaeus, or Coraco Hyoidaeus, as you call it arises only from ye. ligament passing over ye. Semilunar Notch, – Enough of this at present Dr. I have just been putting my extremity up,

Wednesday mornng.

we have five subjects come in to day, hithertoo we have been rather barren – A Larynx I shall not send you now but wait untill I can get a good male one, – The Bones will not want great while macerating they will be very white if layd out in the Sun next Summer.

If I can get a good Male Skeleton I shall I suppose but no hurry – How far am I to go? This is an important question in every commission, – & if Mr. Pitt had put it before the House o' Commons now and then it would not have been a bad one – Some of our neighbours think it a very dishonourable Peace, Whitfield does not declare his opinions, but I suspect them, he reads all the debates —

I am just going into Cornhill for the Ticketts, – I have enquired about ye. Surgeons Instruments but can get no satisfactory answer to send you as yet, they tell me a young Man just come from the East Indies who went out as Surgeons Mate that if they were lost, Government would not make them good, he does not know how it is with respecting your question, however I shall be able I suppose to answer it when I write again —

Dr. Dick; the number of Pills made and used in the year 1797 under the denomination Pacific and diaphoretic, 1 & 2 grains of Calomel was 118266, should you have thought more or less, this W. told me the other night, – perhaps you dont know just what I mean by these Pills, the diaphoretic is  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. of Opium & a  $\frac{1}{4}$  gr. of Tartar Emetic om: noce: the Pacific is the opii one gr. – I am just come from getting the Ticketts, wh. I have sent, and hope will please I saw them registerd as you desired, – Also I have sent, Miss Nanny a very nice warm Shawl very fashonable now, made of Silk & Cammels hair, 9s. was the price, there were others at 12s. of Scarlett borderd with white, for wh. they will exchange for the one I have bought if it is not approved for, hoping it will not be rumpeld, – Grace if I had money to spare I would have bought you something, if you would any thing particularly mention it, as I do not know what will please, And Winter is not sufficiently advanced to say what will be fashonable, As to Buck Boots they are bound with a narrow binding of Silk ferrett I think it is & just within the top an Inch wide of Yellow Leather but I dont care wether there is any or no, they are made at the Instep rather tight & from there upwards allmost of the same size, be pleased to send them soon, for I have walked to day almost all the way upon my Toes it being so very dirty —

I remain Yours dutifully—

H Weekes.

*Letter No. 21*

You must commission me no more at present unless you make me farther remittances, – Mr. W. is greatly obliged for

**LETTER NO. 21**

*To Richard Weekes, 15 November 1801*

St. Thomas's Novr. 15th. 1801,

Dr. Father —

I hope 'ere you see this you have been gratified by the sight of Ticketts, Bones, Tourniquet, Shells &c; As to the particular number for placing dependance for being fortunate, I consider as mear hypothesis and bordering on Superstition also the idea so old maidish, So that I think Dr. D. you are as satisfied with the number sent as if itt had been No.1. —

I have been busily employ'd the greatest part of this day in the dissecting Room working on a blood Vessel of Attree's wh. is very fat, in company with Pugh, Day, & some others, – You will understand it is almost thro: necessity We work on this day on account of ye. subjects going on to spoil, I dare say it was so in your time if you dont forget, – Attree is somewhat indisposed with pain in his Head he is also subject to Spasm's of ye. Chest, he has taken a dose of Physic to day in which I have not envied him,

Day & I came out of ye. dissg. Room to day and partook of some of Fixotts Port Wine for he has now & then a bottle in his drawer, for he is Nunkey pay for all you must know generally, he does it willingly too, Day & I found Buns so we sat & enjoyd ourselves about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour then went at it again, We were there from ye. time we done Breakfast to dinner time tho: we dine sooner on a Sunday always, – You would like to see me in my Gown & sleeves, they are all of a dark Chocolate colour now I think they were blue in your time, tho: some of ye. fellows have a kind of pinbefore made of dark brown Holland but these are not so well for ye. Flue comes off, —

I suppose you wonderd at my suffering a dog to do that mischief to ye. Foot, but what signafy's locking ye. Stable when ye. Steed is stolen; but however ye. beast is there now living entirely in ye. dissecting Room, he is meant for some experiment or other these things I suppose you will not circulate for what I tell you on this head I concieve goes no farther,

I am in no hurry to get any more extremitys yet for I find young Men are very happy I should assist them, & farther I can tell you I had a pretty compliment paid me by the first demonstrator Mr. Saunders who said I had made a very excellent dissection, it was of ye. Muscles of ye. sole of ye. Foot he had not seen so good a dissection in ye. Room I assure you it was quite equal to that for Lecture no one helpt me in it: Attre commenced the dissection with me but soon relaxed in it,

I am repeatedly applyd to by one and the other; Weekes; what Muscle is this & this; how should I dissect it - for ye. demonstrator is not always in the way, – I have asked Saunders before I began to dissect where ye. transversalis was in Foot, it was in

an other Man's subject, now he could not exactly find it, & said he had never paid such minute attention to those small Muscles, he then also observ'd I was a very minute dissector he thought, tho: this Saunders is a cleaver fellow handles his knife in stile, – We dont in inspecting bodies now do exactly as we did in Elliott for we dont make one incision thro: ye. Cutis forming a triangle & then thro: ye. cartilages of ye. Ribs / \ in this manner but one longitudinal incision from ye. 1st. bone of ye. Sternum down to within about an Inch of S.C. then off laterally to each superior & anterior Spine of ye. Ilium, after this we dissect ye. Cutis from its attachment to ye. cartilages of ye. Costae, turn the Cutis back & then cut thro: ye. cartilages & turn them back with the Sternum,<sup>172</sup>

Eight oClock & a dull night, Mr. W. - I & Don have just been up into some of the Wards to see some patients who are worse than the rest, Two of whom are children that have been cut for the Stone (the 1st. since I have been here) the one 4 Years and the other 2 & ½, Mr. Birch operated, the Surgeon's take it by the ½ Year, – In both these cases he was obliged to use the blunt Gorget & in neither did he perform so well as we did;<sup>173</sup> – In introducing the blunt Gorget he did it from above having his finger in ye. orifice at the time then passing it in from left to right down under his left hand, he was longer about it than we were I assure you, they go on very well, no tention or pain on the abdomen, & proceds hitherto as well as our patient did, they put Chamomile flowers in a bag & put it on the Abdomen confining it on with bandages at intervals wetting the bag with Spt. Vin.[. . .] warmg. it is the only difference in their procedure hitherto from us; – I for this Evening [. . .] have been buisying myself with writing Dr. [. . .]<sup>174</sup> Latin Cases, he having had the last taking in, he is more prolix than Dr. F. or Dr. L. as I wrote you of,

I dont think my time misspent in so doing at all, Dr. W's is the best Latin a great deal; he has now began to give us Clinical Lectures on his taking in day as well as Dr. F. tho: Dr. L. does not;

I am a Member of a Clinical Society as it is calld, the regulations are; if a Member absents himself he pays 6d. wh. is no great deal, this is not ye. Physical Society to wh. you belonged there they pay £1. 1s.0d. for Entrance & 1s.6d. of a night if not there.<sup>175</sup>

<sup>172</sup> In the very full description of another country post mortem, the incision was T-shaped with the transverse cut at the top. *Diary of Thomas Turner*, op. cit., note 1 above, p. 53.

<sup>173</sup> Cline was not impressed with Birch's skill either. In his private commonplace book he recorded, "Mr Birch cut an adult and having repeatedly hold of the stone was unable to extract it, the forceps every time slipping from it. It was evident that they never encompassed it. I made several attempts but was foiled in the same manner, but at length getting a good hold I extracted it." *STHMS M28* 8 December 1789. This emphasizes the importance of the custom of having all the surgeons present at capital operations.

<sup>174</sup> William Wells (1757–1817), physician to St Thomas's. "He was a tall, thin scraggy personage with long legs and arms which he scarcely knew what to do with, and he wore a brown scratch wig, which was never in place." South, op. cit., note 47 above, p. 115.

<sup>175</sup> No documents of the St Thomas's Clinical Society have survived. Full minute books of the Guy's Physical Society are in the Wills Library, Guy's Hospital. For histories of the Society see J.M.H. Campbell, 'The history of the Physical Society', *Guy's Hosp Gaz.*, Bicentenary Number 1925, and J.R. Wall, 'The Guy's Hospital Physical Society (1771–1825)', *Guy's Hosp. Rep.*, 1974, 123: 159; Andrew Baster, 'The library of the Guy's Hospital Physical Society 1775–1825', *Guy's Hosp. Gaz.*, 1984, 98: 33 and 75. Susan Lawrence, ' "Desirous of Improvement in Medicine". Pupils and practitioners in the medical societies at Guy's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals 1795–1815', *Bull. Hist. Med.*, 1985, 59: 89

Letter No. 22

We have about a dozen or 14 young Men, almost all cleaver fellows, (old dressers most of them) we have a Secretary & a president, so we discuss Cases, in turn. It will be myne before long, Also mine to become president, our meeting is every Tuesday night after Dr. Curry's Lecture, there are some talking fellows amongst them, & as you will suppose talk nonsense frequently, it is carried on with great regularity, Young Ingram as I told you I believe attends nothing but to Anatomycal Lectures not having enterd to dissn. & in that case a young Man is not at liberty to enter ye. dissg. Room, but he creeps in sometimes, this is the nerness of his Father, like old Paul with his Son; – that will not do, it certainly is not good speculation; I think not however.

Our patient with Popliteal Aneurism is nearly well, who Cline operated on, the Suture's are both come away & the wound is nearly heald, – Question Dr. D. how is the limb supported? – Mr. Birch operated on Friday on a Girl that had ye. Chin growing to ye. Sternum by the intermediate Cutis, it was in consiquence of a Burn, Mr. B. only simply divided it with a curved Scalpel, & keeps the Head as far back as possible, – It was an extensive adhesion, – I did not taste ye. Hare for Mr. W. sent it to Mrs. W. who is not at home for we have had Birds & Pheasant since, Mr. W. was very much pleased with it, & if you are so also, I am —

Yours dutifully Hampton Weekes.

I am grown [. . .] fond of writing home.

Fixott has boug [. . .] injectng. Syringe wh. cost £3.3s.0d. [. . .] spends a great deal of money

LETTER NO. 22

*From Richard Weekes, 18 November 1801. Continued by Dick Weekes*

Hurst. Novr. 18. - 1801

Hampton

P.S. You are to send us two or three Hiiij of good Caco Nutts the 1st opportunity.

We have just recd. your Letter the post is waiting so I have no time to be particular. Randles has declind making your buck boots says he dont know how therefore wish you to get a strong pair in London tell them they must be stout & the Soal good

When you recieve any more money do mention the receipt of it you say nothing about it, the Bones the Shells, Shawl &c. all arrivd safe, Patcham Psh. has paid me all the money with thanks, the post is in a hurry therefore I shall not send it till Friday, so I have more time now to think – the Preparation I mentiond to you of the contents of the Pelvis if welldone is worth 2 Guineas with all the bloodVessels filld Spermatic Arterys &c, a Bougie shd. be passd down the Urethra I think which will convey a better idea of the membranous portion of the Urethra the Corpora Cavernosa et Spongiosa fill'd with Wax &c. I think with you the bladder & perhaps the rectum had better be distended with Air varnish'd & dry'd it will not be so heavy, if you can get a good Male Skeleton do, I want about half an oz. of Dr. James's Powder from Newberrys I believe they sell it 1.1.0.£ pr ounce Tell them it is for an Apothecary.

Letter No. 22

I dont know what money you have but in your next say what more you want, & I will send it pr post dont pass any days without eating heartily of Meat & drink some Porter & keep your Stomach always full.<sup>176</sup>

We where much pleased with the Shells but was much surpris'd at the money it made us shrug our Shoulders, & Dick exclaimed Dang it, I was sent for yesterday to Pockneys at Cuckfield<sup>177</sup> to make an new Anus in a Girl about 14 months old the one she had was too near the Vagina & very small I made one accordingly. – Old Strong of Patcham, a patient of ours at Tom Godlys house is just dead of the Natural Small Pox There is a number of particulars in your 2 former letters that dont require answering farther than that we are wonderfully well satisfied with your manner of conducting yourself, & that we are all vastly pleased when we receive a letter from you, here we are in the great Parlour sitting on the Sopha the fire grate sett further back so that there is no smoke nor dust now

Dear Brother – I now take the Pen as you will see. in primus loco. Mrs Hannington is brought a bed. Your Question about the Circulation being carried on in the limb. is by Anastumose of the small branches of the Artery's, whch. where sent of from the Crural Artery, above where the operation was performed. you know Grace says Riche is well & we are all well. — have no great deal of Business atpresent. – I think the Tridacna's where dear. you have sent me no Teeth shell's, or Limpets, I should like to have a Tooth shell or two, some Limpetts and a Razor shell. if you should send us down a parcel of any thing. you may send them down with it. – these shells cost about 1s. or half a crown each and I should think no more neither. as for any others I can get them when I come to Town. perhaps I shall give you a call before Christmas. I should like it very much for few Days. I hope we shll. see you at Christmas for a few Ds. if you do send us any parcel down soon. you may send these shells in it if not much beyond the prices I now think. and a few quire of this paper for writing out Bills on. and the Pulv. Jacobi. all together.— We give 1s.6d. pr quire for this paper of Mac. Remember me to Day. the Pugh's Attree Cline &c. An't you glad you know the Muscles so well? I have no news to tell you as I know of at present. Mary Ann says you have no need to gett her a bonnett now, they have divided the Shawl between them. I think Mr. Snrs. is not very minute in his Myological researches, or he would have known where to look for the Transversalis Pedis. and you too should have known it before. it is in your book I think in the last page of the Muscles [. . .] yet sent us Innes.

<sup>176</sup> The dangers of the dissecting room were well recognized, but the only manual of anatomy that gave good advice was John Shaw, *A manual for the student of anatomy*, London, 1821. "The student should endeavour to prevent the bad effects of sitting several hours in a cold dissecting room; the most effectual way is to put on an additional flannel jacket, and carpet shoes over his boots . . . never to sit in the dissecting room with the coat which he wears during the day, but to keep one for the purpose while he is there. A cap should be worn in preference to a hat, which is not only inconvenient, but also quickly acquires a bad smell. . . it is necessary for students from the country to live a little fuller, while attending the dissecting rooms, than they have accustomed to in the country. If they do this and at the same time take regular exercise, and attend to the state of their bowels, they will generally escape the bad consequences which occasionally occur from a cut on the finger." (p. xvi.)

<sup>177</sup> See map.

*Letter No. 23*

Dick Tuppen<sup>178</sup> is at St. Bartholemews Hos: at his Uncle's house in a good Situation  
I beleive — Send us a Larynx with the Os. Hyodaeus has the next opportunity  
— I remain Yours

&cc R Weekes Junr.

Hurst. Wensday Eveg. —  
(Write soon)

We shall have a Letter soon I suppose about more money for Buck boots &ccc  
Q. have you been out to Dinner lately —  
Save this Letter to Peruse again  
Eat & Drink often and hearty —

**LETTER NO. 23**

*To Richard Weekes, 21 November 1801*

St. Thomas's Novr. 21st. 1801,

Dear Father

Yours I this day recieved, which had it not so happend I intended myself ye. pleasure of writing to inform you that money I must have, in ye. first place last Tuesday I thought it a convenient oportunity to take a trunk & lower extremitys of a Male Adult the reason of so doing is; I never could get a Pelvis alone for it is always divided & goes with ye. lower extremities now it being an Anasarcous subject it was not disposed of very readily, tho: I thought it would be no impediment to my preparation; so I said I would have it, I was told I must give 18s. for it & with ye. injection it will cost me £1.5s.0d, if I had injected it myself I must pay'd just as much, & I did not like to run ye. hazard of spoiling ye. preparation so got Mr. Saunders to inject it, But I washd ye. Veins myself & assisted in geting it in readiness, And what do you think I discoverd, why that there was a total obliteration of ye. Cava commencing about 4 Inches above ye. byfercation now it appears after dissection not to have been originally so but from disease, The Vena Azygos as you may suppose is preternaturally enlarged & all ye. collateral Veins are so also, It is very putrid already tho: I have not more than half done it, — Mr. Cooper seemd very much to wish to have it before it was injected for ye. Museum for he said it was of no very great use to a private individual & said he would give me an other for it, but now it is injected it appears exactly like one there is in ye. Museum that he does not particularly desire it, I shall include all ye. Lumbar Vertebrae & ye. Femur's amputated just below ye. little Trochanters, It will look very well when finished & Varnishd, but I cannot do it so well quite as if it was fresh, The only lapsus manus that I have had is removing ye. Spermatic Arteries, wh. will not signafy greatly,<sup>179</sup>

<sup>178</sup> Tuppen became surgeon-apothecary at Lindfield in 1805. 'A country doctor in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries', *Sussex County Magazine*, 1936, 10: 325.



Letter No. 23

Now to purchase, Dr. James's powders, ye Cocoa, my Boots to pay 9s. for my flannel waist Coat with some few &c's at least will take £5.5s.0d, but send what you deem necessary,

Poor Attree has been very ill indeed with Spasms of ye. right Arm coming on as Cooper & Dr. Fordyce think from dissecting, He has always been subject to spasm in ye. Chest, He has had one of ye. Sisters of ye. Hospital to sit up with him these 3 or 4 nights past, has had Leaches; been fomented and poulticed, tho: by this time there is no appearance of its coming to suppuration, His Brother has been staying here these two days past, Mr. Cooper is not fully satisfied that dissecting is ye. sole cause for many of ye. young men cut their fingers & nothing of ill consequence ensues, more than this Attree does not recollect puncturing or cutting his finger at all neither is there any marks of it, I have cut my fingers frequently & they get well again, Cooper has always said it does not happen from ye. absorption of putrid matter, I hope I may escape all affections of this sort, I believe I mentiond to you that he lie abed all day Sunday last which was the day after he was dissecting, wh. day he had violent pain in ye. head,

Almost ye. only question Dr. Dick asks is have you been out to dinner lately, I say no neither do I think of doing so at present, Another question is if I or Don wh. of us is Major in point of breakage my answer is that I have but little to do among ye. bottles this quarter for Don & I divide it between us in some manner I attend close this & he the next, I mean to Lectures, How much money do you think Don has spent since he has been here I mean on trifles tho: I believe he has had a Coat & waistcoat or two, Wine &c. £40 but wh. way it is gone he does not know, he is an only Son, & a spoiled Child,

I am happy to think you like the Sofa, & other things I sent you, I often think within myself, (now they are reading my Letters) I am sorry I did not mention ye. receipt of ye. 4 pound, but in future I will take care to do it, — I have began to take the names down of my Cotempores, I have eat a good dinner to day, We have fruit every day after dinner, ye. Pears are very good indeed,

Grace I am glad your Bird is well; how [ . . . ] Gock's billy Thrush do? does Dick call him old [ . . . ] now, And Master Quanny does he grow more grey. I shall very soon go to Sowerby's No.2 Mead Place, Lambeth, — There were some young Men came one day from St. Bartholomews to see operations but there proved to be none that day so they soon went away again, & I thought there was a Face among them that I ought to have known, & am shure now that it was Tuppen, I have discovered one of Dr. D. shirts among mine, My washing account was last time 6s.6d, I begin to miss the bleeding money a little,

Dr. Dick I shd. be happy to see you to take part of my bed for a night or two, as Whitfield I dare say would have no objection, Mrs. W. came home yesterday.

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<sup>179</sup> To keep a competent knowledge of anatomy in later life, it was recommended to make preparations of an "upper and lower extremity, and of a head and neck, in the adult, injected to show the blood vessels; side views of the male and female pelvis . . . a small subject, to shew the distribution of the nerves, and preparations of particular parts, as of lacrymal sac and duct &c." J.H. Green, *The dissectors manual*, London, 1821, p. liii.

*Letter No. 24*

Ann you have not said your self how you liked ye. Shawl or if you should like to have had ye. scarlet one, Tis so short a time since I wrote that I find but little food for conversation, there is nothing particular going on I think of importance to inform you of at present, My Pantaloons I have paid & Laundry, but I have a pair of Boots to be soled wh. will cost me 5s., Tell Dr. D. I am drawing a Head of ye. Muscles as large as life from Duverney's work, it will be in black chalk, I think it will please him I must from necessity conclude with duty to my Father & remain Yours affectionaty.

Hampton Weekes,

**LETTER NO. 24**

*To Richard Weekes, 25 November [1801]*

St. Thomas's Nov. 25th.

Dear Father —

You will find arrive with this Letter 3lb. of Cocoa at 3s.6d. pr. Pound, I bought it in Monument Yard, Also a Razor Shell three foreign Limpets & three Teeth Shells the best they had, tho: they have some better sometimes, they altogether cost 4s. You will find a handfull of genuine Castor Oil seeds have sent them thinking you never had seen any I think they would grow, you might shew them to Wm. Borrer & oblige him with a few,

There is a pound of true Turkey Figs wh. I beg Miss Graces acceptance of, as I have made her no remittance whatever, And last of all there is a Shirt of Dr. D's. that I cannot conveniently wear,

The Box wh. contains the above Mr. W. has been so obliging as to permit me to make use of, Tho: I have not said there will be found  $\frac{1}{2}$ oz of Dr. James's Powders, And ye. Advantage the Apothecary reaps is 6d. per packett, As I gave 12s. for it, They make no other allowance if 50 dozen is bought

The Seeds, Mr. W. has procured, that he may try what ye. produce of Oil is, They appear very Oily as you will find,

Now to speak of Monsier Attree as Don calls him, I am happy from ye. authority of Dr. Fordyce & Mr. Cooper to pronounce him out of danger, As I assure you that time was when they realy did not know what to think of him All the danger to be apprehended was from ye. violence of ye. Spasms, tho: at present he is free from them, & there only continues a dull pain, He is commencing now to eat animal food wh. he has abstaind from 7 days, He is so far debilitated as not to be able to sit up more than an hour or two, Jno. Attree his Brother has been staying here but on Sunday last went to Teddington to see his Sisters that are at School there he has not returned untill to day, the reason of his being detaind there so long was pleasure I believe, His Father came to Town last Evening & immediately enquired for him and was surprized at not finding him in Thomas's Street, As he had written to his Father that he was totally confined in his Brothers Room, Now the Fathers arrival as you may suppose was entirely unlooked for on his part, So he arrved in Town this

*Letter No. 24*

Morning and went away to meet his Father who was gone to Westminster on business, Mr. W. Don & I have had a fine laugh at it,

I have just got thro: my piece of dissection wh. I am well satisfied will not answer you expectation, I took it up into ye. drying Room yesterday, It has taken me just a Week doing, And proved at last a most putrid morsel full as much as any piece of dissection could be I am shure, I will state to ye. principal preventives to my makeing so good a thing as you wishd. 1st. very Anasarcose, wh. fluid extended itself between every fibre of ye. Muscles Also much more fat than I expected or any one else, The Testes I have both removed owing to ye. putridity's preventing ye. injection to run but I have left the cords passing out of ye. Abdominal Rings, The corpora spongiosa has not run well but ye. cavernosa has, I have also, amputated ye. Poenis a little below ye. glands for there certainly was no use for that & it did not add [. . .] preparation, Another thing the injection [. . .] was too hard, But I am stating every disadvantage in ye. preparation, tho: upon ye. whole it is not so bad a preparation I assure you.

If I were to try again & have a fresh, lean, subject, I have no doubt but I could make a tolerable good thing of it,

I have expended all my money to 17s.6d. wh. is just enough to pay Laundry, I hope to be able in a Post or two to send you a receipt of another remittance,

The next Box will contain one of ye. extremities of my subject wh. is a strong markd Tibia & Fibula &c to Macerate with ye. others,

I find I have been making a mistake about ye. Castor Oil berries, wh. prove to be nothing more than Palma Criste berries, - I have just thought I may as well send Dick my Innes as to buy a new one, for I can get Fixotts, or some one elses, — Paper is very near as dear here as at Hurst,

We had a case of fractured cranium yesterday brought in with very evident depression, when it was necessary to apply ye. Trephine twice before ye. depression could be removed, And to day simptoms of inflamm. seems to be coming on 16oz of blood have been taken away, he has also had a rigour at 11 o Clock wh. was succeeded by heat he has had a laxative & is taking ye. Saline Mixture; Fixott is gone to ye. Play, I have just done Tea & we have just had a simple fracture of both Tibia & Fibula,

I have cut my Thumb & two first fingers of my left hand, & each place is festering but nearly topical & superficial, but it is very troublesome as are all sore fingers, Don has cut his and it is got well, I remain yours

affectionately

Hampton W.

I beg Tertius's [. . .] pardon for not having ye com: [. . .]aisance to thank him for ye. Hare [. . .] was so good as to present

## LETTER NO. 25

*From Richard Weekes, 25 November [1801]. Continued by Dick and Mary Ann Weekes*

Hurst Nov 25.

Hamptony

Your letter I did not receive to day till after the post was gone so we concluded to send this letter by the Coach & having a few Hogs puddings & Sausages thought we would send a few of each as I think they are wholesomer than any you can get in London these with a draught of good Porter will make you a good Dinner. —

Enclosed I have sent you a bank of England note for Ten pounds, beshure you acknowledge it in yr. next you need not send Dicks shirt back but having this opportunity thought we would send yours., Have you passed a bougie down the Urethra into the bladder in order to shew the membranous portion, the use of this preparation is principally to shew the parts wounded in Lythotomy the internal pudendal artery, prostate gland, head of the corpora spongiosa, which is often wounded in the operation altho: unnecessarily, dont distend the Rectum so as to displace it, expose the parts so that it may be readily seen what parts is wounded in Lythotomy several of the Muscles must be cut away but perhaps the origin of those wch. arise from the tuberosity & ramus of the Ischium may be preserv'd, remembering the most slovenly preparation conveys a better idea than the best copper plate – dont spare turpentine in drying & see it often, we used to hang ours in the Garretts, if you can find a better place do so, I remember a very good preparation or two being stolen. —

Old Strong is dead & we have got 7 more of the family to have caught it & 3 inoculated, but Barrett had Inoculated them all with Cow pock matter very early none of which took or at least came to nothing – When does Whitfield receive his money for your board I can send it just when you please, Teddy Borrers Tickett was drawn a blank the first day, have heard nothing of mine as yet,

I forgot in the proper place to mention what I think is a great impropriety in your preparation of the contents of the Pelvis, that is your saving a part of the Muscles of the thigh, I shd. have dissected out the Femors at their articulation, the preparation will not be one farthing the better and it spoils the lower extremities the bones of which would be valuable besides it makes the preparation so heavy by saving such a mass of Muscles, but perhaps I am mistaken Grace & Mary have divided the Shawl between them & like it much better than the Scarlet, you must get the place where your cotemporaries came from or else your list will be very lame & unfinish'd, what says Dr. Fordyce abt. the Oak Leaf, An ounce of Dr. James's Powder will not be too much tell them it is for an Apothecary see it put up I believe the price is £1.2.0 — perhaps you can sell this preparation of the Pelvis if it is not to your mind & purchase another take care your fingers, for cutting the fingers by dissection in irritable habits is often dangerous when the subject is putrid, – I have nearly exhausted all my subject matter but only to say that in drawing the Muscles the out line. if it is not well defin'd is good for nothing it shd. be drawn with red Ink. the outline — Adieu —

*Letter No. 25*

The Muscles of the Extremitys if well Drawn large, and the Outline well Defined would be a good thing for you to draw. Dear Major I now begin. What do you think of My. Os. &c. by this time. are you well acquainted wth. all the branches of Anatomy by this time ——

Have you seen any more of your old school fnds. yet? Have you seen any thing curious for my Father and Self. You know we are Virtuoso's. I can tell you Major my Father thinks me of some service to him now you are gone. but you know before how could the Moon shine when the Sun shone you are to understand I allude the Sun to you and Lune to myself – You are to send us down Specimens of all Bandages Rolers Splints and all the things which we have not gott Tail Bandages Splints for Fractures &ccc. Send us an account of Cases Operations &cc., and send us down a package soon of Curiositys &cc. Peruse your Letter that we sent you last again? What do they say of you now in the Dissecting room hay? do they ask you many questions? Who is your Intimate. How do you get on in the French Language with Don?

I reman Yours &c.

R Weekes

Wednesday 5 oclock Candle Light

Mon Chere Frère. ——

As Dick has exhausted his stock of Intelligence, I take the Pen, I like the Shawl very much, I have been rather poorly, I have taken an Emetic, & have been taking Diobstruent Pills, Grace & I, Walked to Dichling on Monday in our Return We met Mr. Thomas Attree, who acquanted, us his Brother, was better, Harry Potter & Wife are gone to live in London, Mr. Campion, is to have a new Baliff it is a man from Portslade who has been a Butcher, All the Land in Hurst has been Valued.<sup>180</sup> Mr. Campion is Raised an Hundred Pounds, Dr. Marchant, & Mr. Lindfield are the same as before, our house is lowered 8 Pound, our fields, a little Higher, Mrs. W. has a fresh, Cold & her Cough is very bad, Grace is gone to spend the day, With Sarah Borrer, the Miss Dodsons Drank Tea with me on Saturday, Last. My Farther desires his Compliments to Mr. Attree, was sorry to hear of his Indisposition advises him not to frequent the Dissecting Room too much, & to take all opportunities of Breathing Country Air, to Walk to Highgate, & Hamstead, often particularly when the Wind is in the North, We play at Quadrille almost every night, We are Adepts in that Game. Miss Stow, is our Instructress, Poor Mrs. Winn is very ill, Mr. Raikes, Called on us last Sunday.

I remain Dear Tony, Yours Sincerely M A Weekes

<sup>180</sup> For assessment of tax and poor relief. "Dec. 22 1801 Paid Mr Turner and Mr. Allen for valuing the parish £63 0 0", ESRO Par 400 12/1/6.

## LETTER NO. 26

To Richard Weekes, 27 November 1801

St. Thomas's Novr. 27th.—

Dear Father —

I am about to acknowledge the receipt of the basket, by ye. Coach containing a Note value £10, some sausages, hogspudding, an Apple & a Shirt, for all which I return my most sincere thanks, I hope you will have received a little box by Knowles containing Shells, with some &c's, before the Letter arrives, I don't think the shells so dear, tho: money enough, and Dr. James's Powders I have sent enough for the present I suppose,

In consequence of the handle of the Basket being pulled from its junction on one side; the direction had very near been also detached, tho: indeed, the part of the handle on the other side might with the greatest ease have been separated. And if so where would have gone the basket, Now my advise is that if you have occasion to send an other to affix the direction on the side of the top of the Basket,

I did not recollect to have told you that I had a Shirt of the Doctors; tell him I liked his idea of the Sun's shining, but he need not have interpreted his simile.

Dr, you must remember Sherwood<sup>181</sup> a School fellow of yours he has taken a Wife tho: he appears not more than 18, he is very intimate with Cline, & sometimes comes to hear an Anatomical Lecture, he is a Stock Jobber, & quite a blood, — I supped last night in the dressers room with Day,<sup>182</sup> it was his first week of taking in, he asked after you, each Dresser is compelled to stay & sleep at the Hospital, the Week he takes in of.

Day lodges with one Scudamore,<sup>183</sup> who comes out of Kent & his Father is a Medical Man, he has heard of Mr. Mace, of Tenterden, but does not know him Scudamore is a very pleasant fellow, was dresser at Guys last year, We were very comfortable last night supping off toasted cheese, I lost a bottle of Wine to Scudamore, now the bet was, this; he lay'd me he could bring up all his supper, so he immediately opened the window & cascaded with the greatest ease, so we are to partake of it together somewhere S. and I are just a match for each other at Chess, I advise my Sisters & the Dr. to play a good deal,

My preparation will not be so heavy in consequence of the Muscles for I have removed the Glutei Maximi, & medii on both sides, to shew the Gluteal Arteries, & also better to shew the giving of the internal pudendal Artery, And the Muscles of the Thigh are removed very high up, I have left the levator Ani wh. appears very pretty, I having left all the Lumbr. Vertebrae in consequence of the commencement of the

<sup>181</sup> The only Sherwood in the Merchant Taylors' registers is Henry, who became Captain Paymaster of the 53rd Regiment and married Mary Butt in 1803.

<sup>182</sup> John Day, dresser to Cline, entered 30 September 1801.

<sup>183</sup> Later Sir Charles Scudamore (1779–1849). His father was a surgeon-apothecary at Wye in Kent. He became a highly fashionable physician, and wrote extensively on spa treatments and the stethoscope. See W. Munk, *Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London*, 3 vols., London, Royal College of Physicians, 1878, vol. 3.

*Letter No. 26*

obliteration of the Cava, I have remov'd the Sartorius on one side to shew the giving off of the profundus branch from the Crural Artery, and on the other have left it and the Muscles, as near as possible in their natural situation, only have passed a string around to confine them in their natural situation

Jno. Attree & his Father dined with us to day & Wm. Attree came down stairs for the first time, he is fallen away a little, Cooper entertains a doubt now if it was from dissection, Mr. A. returns to morrow, but master Jonney stays I believe a little longer, — As I think it will be somewhat satisfactory for me to account to you a little what goes with money, Laundry I have enough for without dipping into ye. £10. note for, Pantaloons £1.10.0, Fll. waistcoat 9s Bc. Boots 2.2.0 soalg. Boots 5s, drawing paper & chalk 2s., 2s.3d, the baskett cost portradge &c Scudamore's bottle of Wine 3s.6d, my preparation £1.5.0 exclusive of turpentine & Varnish So that after this I dont see what I shall get rid of my money about particularly, as you may suppose there are many little trifling things that rob the pockett of a 6d. or a 1s., but I will be as cautious as I can of it.

I shall go about the middle of next Week to Sowerbys. There are many plants & roots I should like to buy Dr. Dick, (as you are fond of Shells) but they run away with money, but however if I can get a Mandrake I certainly will, it is the *Atropa Mandragora* of *Linnaeus*,

I find this society of ours does a young Man good it learns him to speak in publick, I begin to spout away now Dr. about this that an the other as you know I was a little fond of argument, I dare say you will caution me in your next not to make use of too many fine words that are inapplicable too But I dont say so much as to expose myself [. . .] som [. . . . .] em do; chatter complete nonsense, alla[. . .] the *Modus operandi* of Medicines, tho: I am persuaded as Mr Fathers says there is no one knows the *Modus operandi* of any one Medicine we use hardly.

I dont feel it requisite to take Porter so much as I first thought I did, for we have most excellent beer and every thing else that is good.

Now and then of an Evening in the dissecting Room a little Porter is very good, The last evening I was in the dissg. Room I was there from 5 oClock untill 9 all alone. I at that time thought of you, I remember you said you were dissg. late one night an old girl exclaimd something but what I dont know, —

The Clock has just gone 9 & so has the Watchman Jack Attree is marching about in the study where I am writing, If you have any other commands I shall be very happy to excute them, & remain,

Yours dutifully  
Hampton Weekes

LETTER NO. 27

To Richard Weekes, 3 December 1801

St. Thomas's Decr. 3d. 1801

Dear Father —

It is a very short time that I now have to address a few lines to you, As no Letter can be put into the Post after 7 oClock unless 6d. is paid for it, I went the day before yesterday to Sowerby's & was very much entertain'd, I gaind a knowledge of several curious phenominons in nature, One wh. was highly novel to me was that if ye. large Garden Shell snail is killd in hot water that on the left side about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an Inch from the Head there is a little sheath wh. contains small spiculae or darts to the number of 3 or 4 wh. it makes use of by shootg. them at its entagonist or during fits of love

Mr. S. is very much wishg. something of every thing in nature this Kingdom produces, He has birds Animals of ye. Brute creation stuffd, Also Shells Minerals & Fossils principally English & Scotch specimens, He has no Sussex Marble in a state of nature but only a pollish'd specimen, He wants a piece, also some of ye. yellow Oachre such as in Crosskeys<sup>184</sup> pitt, I asked him if he had any Loadstones, I mean such as you had of Fearon<sup>185</sup> of Cuckfield now if you have any one to spare separate of in the state they are found, you would oblige me very much if you would remit them to me, He has some Echinus tho: but few if you could send one or two of both calcareous & Silicious, I am shure they would be very acceptable, or indeed any thing the Country afforded, so if you can make up a little packett do,

This man is patronized by many of the nobility also Sr. Josh. Banks,<sup>186</sup> I was asking him about the leaf you sent he recollected immediately what I meant & shewd me the very kind also a nother kind or two, He told me it remaind as yet a great doubt what they were that even Sr. Josh. B. did not know what they were, but this was certain that they were a nidus for some animalcula or other,

I have by this Post written to Wm. Borrer in answer to his concerning a Skelleton, His Letter I wrote last night, therefore I did not know so much as I now do for I have seen the man who makes them who tells me that a cappital female Skelleton may be had at the prise of 5 Guineas but that a very good male will come to 6, Some people prefer the female on account of the Pelvis, The great difference in the price of them depends upon, how strong the orrigin & insertion of Muscles is, not on the height.

If you will be so good as ask Wm. B. if he is determind to have a male or to be contented with a good female, there is one of this descriptn. ready articulated wh. I am going to see to morrow or next day, An answer to this as soon as you please will oblige me much,

If he determines upon either I shall have not more than money enough to pay all expenses for, if so would wish you to remit it me.

I have turpented my preparation well & have shown the Bulb of the corpora spongiosa better & I see how very much arterys are distributed all about it,

<sup>184</sup> A farmer at Hurst.

<sup>185</sup> A surgeon-apothecary.

<sup>186</sup> Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820). Botanist, explorer, and a very sociable member of London's scientific community; see *DNB*.



*Letter No. 28*

I asked Dr. Fordyce this day about the leaf but he said he did not know as yet what it was, It was his taking in to day, & He gave us a good Lecture.

The Hogs puddings proved very good indeed I have only one pudding left We had ye. sausages for supper,

Jno. Attree left us yesterday Morning, at which time he begd of me daily to write & inform him how his brother was, I have written twice as I am to write every day I inform you Attree has had a relaps of pain, from comg. down too soon so Dr. Fordyce orderd him to lie a bed for a Week he is now out of danger & good deal better, [. . .] will go to Brighton in 10 days of a fortnight [. . .]

I myself a happy to inform you a [. . .] great deal better of my Ulcerated fingers & Thumb they are comparatively well, & soon think of dissecting an upper extremity next, – I beg you will excuse my haste for I have only half an hour to run to the post in,

We have not had many operations lately, It is Wardroper's<sup>187</sup> taking in this Week, He was Apprentice to Quinnell of Arundel & enterd as dresser at the same time that Attree did,

Sowerby when I told him I had a Brother who was curious in this way; said he should be happy to change with him any thing he pleasd or to furnish him with a few specimens, He was very attentive to us for one of the assistants at Guys accompanyd me who is very fond of mineralogy, his name is Hibbert,<sup>188</sup> a West Indian, He went to school at Brighton he had a Scrophulous affection of the neck in wh. Mr. Hall attended him, he is a very gentele fellow, He is likewise going to send Sowerby something in ye. way I mentiond, We were at S.'s 3 or 4 hours, he has 4 or 5 Sons who are very cleaver,

We had to day a very good Lecture on Chemistry in wh. was an experiment shewing the formation of Water by the union of Oxygen Gas & Hydrogen 1st. the setting fire to the Hydrogen by ye. Electric spark but the experiment went on so fast as to crack the glass balloon in wh. ye. union took place, This experiment was carrid to a great length by the immortal Lovoisier, It appears that the quantity of water formd exactly ammounts to ye. quantity of gass of each kind is made use of in the experiment.

I also saw the experit. of Monsier L. of a piece of wire burng. in Oxygen Air,  
I remain yours dutifully Hampton Weekes.

**LETTER NO. 28**

*From Dick Weekes, 5 December 1801. Continued by Richard Weekes*

Hurst Decr 5  
1801

Dear Brother —

I herewith send you a box containing the following Viz: No. 1. I think a Corraline production. 2. Sussex Marble or fossill Periwinkle shells a vein of whc. runs thro:out the County East and West: a few fields wide: – 3. Echinits and one Calcareous from

Letter No. 28

South Downs. 4. Astroites and one Calcareous from Do. – 5. Bufonites Toad stones or sharks teeth. found in Limestone rock at Cuckfield. I have no specimen at present of them in the Limestone. but I hope I shall soon. – 6. A cockle from Downs. – 7. *Anomia Terebretuta* from ——— 8. Pyrites from Do. I think in the form of Corral they are not very Common but I have two specimens nearly alike I dont know wht. they are – 9. Yellow ochre I think. from Downs taken out of the middle of a large Chalk stone. – 10. Fossil shell of some sort I know not of wht. I have four or five such peices. all taken from the Marle pitt at the foot of Wolsonbury hill – Ask Mr. S. what he thinks it is the shell of? and if these specimens are worth his acceptance he is very welcome to them. I know of no fossil or shell in particular I should like to have in exchange. lett that alone untill I come to Town myself. – tell him I have a fossil Nautilus as large as your head nearly in Chalk from Do. and a large Ammonia from Do. and a palate of the fish Sulcus from Do. I had two that where found very near together. one I gave to Feron. they where both the same size about the bigness of a large Shilling only longer. ———<sup>189</sup>

Dr. Hampton, ———

I now take the Pen, in the first place we wish you to get us 1 yrd. of the colou'd sofa, Cover, 2d. you are to ask Mr. Sparrow if he can recommend, you where you can get a Second-hand, Wilton; Carpet for our common, large, Sitting parlour, We have measured it, in Length 18 feet 5 inches, Width 13 feet 5 inches, to cover the room, compleatly. we should like to have one as Soon, as you conveniently can get it, At Sales, in London, you may often buy carpets not of the first fashion, as good as new, we wish also you to buy a Pound of Turkey figgs they are for Mrs. W. who has been very ill. Grace, returns you many thanks, for thosr you were so kind as to send her, Have you called on Monkhou's, since you have been in Town? if you do call soon, tell Miss Monkhouse, I think she has forgotten me;

Get us a new pair of Scissars very strong one's for the Pouch<sup>190</sup> we broke ours only cutting some Tow. We think you are much improved both in you language and writing. Wm. Borrer will write to you soon and perhaps remit you the Money. If not you must borrow a guinea or two of Don Attree or some one. you are to send the bill of the Sofa and we will send you the Money — What Sallery has the demonstrator pr. year for assisting to Demonstrate? – We had a letter from Jno. Breads. & he will soon be here and then we will send you a full account. Yours &cc,

R W.J.

NB We have sent you a few apples to fill up the box ———

We all send love to you ———

—————

<sup>187</sup> Edward Wardroper, dresser to Chandler, entered 30 September 1801.

<sup>188</sup> Mentioned as a member of the Guy's Physical Society.

<sup>189</sup> For details of these specimens see Frederick Dixon, *The geology of Sussex*, Brighton, 1818; and Gideon Mantell, *The geology of the south east of England*, London, Longman, 1833.

<sup>190</sup> It is very unfortunate that there are no other references to the equipment they carried about with them.

*Letter No. 29*

Write soon, we should write more only the waggon is waiting.

No news at Hurst. we have lost one more patient of small pox and have 3 more Inocd. and 3 Natural preetty well ——

Quanny is very Gray. we have had no snow here at all. Grace sends love. We are full of Business at present ——

**LETTER NO. 29**

*To Richard Weekes, 7 December 1801*

St. Thomas's Decr. 7th.  
1801

Dear Father ——

I this day recieved an other Letter from W. Borrer junr. in which he particularly mentions, a Male Skeleton, But I to Day sent by the Cobham Stage, a very good female for he said in his first Letter he was not very particular and as they would not have a male one ready before January or Febuary, & he expressing himself in rather hurrying terms, I thought I would take this oportunity, It will cost £5.13.0 or thereabouts, for I do not pay for it before to morrow, 8 shillings includes the Box for it, all this I have said in my to day's Letter to W.B. he will repay you for it he said.

Now I have to inform you that this Man by name Guilmore, has a very capital Skeleton in maceration, wh. as I before said will be ready about Feby. the bones are strongly marked, I made him promise me the first refusal of it, He also promises me he will not charge me for the Box as I have bought one Skeleton of him, I saw a Femor, a Radius & Ulna with some others & they pleased me much, So if I have it it will come to six guineas, including the Box, I am to give him an answer in a fortnight so if you conclude upon it write me word,

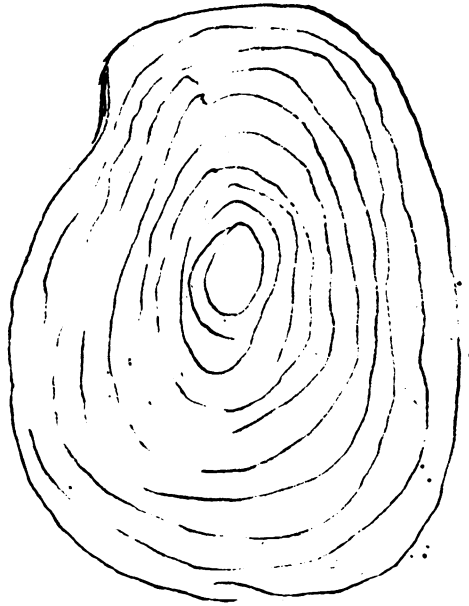
Dr. Dick dont pop a word of this to Wm. Borrer for he will not be pleased perhaps, & think I ought to have waited & sent this to Dr. Browne, But you will weather this point I have no doubt,

I ran to day after having recieved Borrer's Letter to see if Gilmore had sent it, now it had not been gone by the Coach more than 3 hours,

If you wish for a strong marked male Skeleton I think you should not wait any longer but this you will think on as you please of,

I am just come from drinking tea with one of our demonstrators, Mr. Davy who lives just by; he invited me by mear accident; I was asking him about a preparation of the organs of generation, in males He told me he would shew me one of his making & then asked me to Tea, (He is a very consequential fellow & very proud) tho: upon the whole a very cleaver fellow, about my age or 1 or 2 Years older He has operated him self for the Stone, with good success, only one case tho: His preparation includes only half the Poenis a section of the bladder & rectum, and the large Veins & Arteries, but not the spermatic Arteries, neither is there the testis or Vasa defferentia, so it is nearly the parts containd in the Pelvis, just as I have related, but does not convey so good an idea as mine does,

He shewd me a curious  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a calculous taken from a female subject, it is the property of Mr. Cooper it is quite as large as this representation, occupying the whole cavity of the bladder, the stratum's were of the width as here represented very nearly, I cannot relate the history of her case but if Dr. Dick enquires of Mr. Fearon for one two or three of the last numbers of the *Medical Journal*<sup>191</sup> her case is related at full length; it partook of the shape of the Bladder in a great measure I was very much surpris'd at first and was very much tempted not to believe it untill he told me he in part dissected her in the dissecting Room I put the question to him respecting, my dissecting in the little dissecting Room, He said he had been very much disappointed by young men having promised him they would assist him, I told him He might rely upon what I said, that I were situated very conveniently & would certainly do my endeavour to exicute what I said so he told me I should employ myself if I would, So I begin to morrow dissg. for the Museum, an Arm, with some peculiarities in it,



This young Man was down at Brighton a few days last Summer, He would like very well by what I can see to be invited to stay a few days at Hurst I have only said that when he came into Sussex again we should be glad to furnish him with a bed,

He told me he borrow'd a great coat of Peter Gard of Staplefield Common<sup>192</sup> telling him he might never see it again, so he left a guinea, And when he return'd he gave Peter his Coat again, He dined there he said [ . . . ] as apprentice at the Hospital, & is very [ . . . ]pected by all the old standards,

When I was at Bartholomews to day I saw a curious variety of a Muscle of the Os Hyoides; There were two Omo Hyoideus Muscles only one side not on the other & the under one was inserted into the Sterno Hyoideus Muscle, it had a very narrow origin & bellied in ye. middle, — This was a subject dissecting in the dissg. Room, —

I heard of one of the pupils, and also of Gilmore say that Verrell was a clever fellow, I mean of Newick, that he belongs to a society there & that he is fond of spouting, & is a follower of Dr. Brown's sistem,<sup>193</sup> — I afterwards heard he was

<sup>191</sup> The "Medical Journal" usually refers to the *Medical and Physical Journal*. There is no reference to this stone during 1801, but there were two long articles by Antoine François Fourcroy, 'On the urinary stones and gravel in man', *Med. phys. J.*, 1801, 6: 527ff; 1802, 7: 60ff.

<sup>192</sup> See map.

<sup>193</sup> John Brown (1735–88). The Brunonian System looked upon disease as an alteration in the degree of excitability of the body and treatment depended upon stimulants or depressants to return the balance to normal. Opium and alcohol were the two most favoured drugs.

*Letter No. 30*

sometimes talking more than he himself understood that he gave in a paper pronouncing Opium to be a stimulant, not a sedative, – It is at present here a strong argument wether Digitalis is a sedative or a stimulant, ——

If you can transmit me some few notes of Stanings case at Hilders who was shot thro: the Liver, I should be glad for it would be a case, or rather a good piece of medical news for our society, as there is  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour alloted for news, – I have written a case for ye. society to discuss, & am to bring it forward either to morrow night or in a Week, – I will send you the cobby some of these days – It was a case in Abraham's Ward, ——

We had two cases of Lythotomy, perform'd on Friday last, One man came from Uckfield, This man had been brought into the operating Theatre three Weeks before and a staff was attempted to be introduced by Mr. Chandler one of ye. Surgeons, but he not being able to affect it he was sent into the Ward again, & the case was pronounced to be only a disease of ye. Prostrate Gland, (the Urine was voided by drops & he had ye. usual simptoms of Stone) Mr. Cooper being by; the last time took hold of a small sound, & immediately introduced it into ye. bladder, when he pronounced the Man to have a Stone, at the same time surprizing the whole Theatre & also taking upon himself some little credit as you may suppose, He then introduced, a comn. sized staff, Mr. B. operated & took out a very good sized stone, – I write to Brighton every night, Attree is in a good deal of pain, Cline sees him to morrow.

I remain yours dutifully,  
H Weekes.

Send me address of Mr. Cripps's in your next

**LETTER NO. 30**

*To Richard (Dick) Weekes, 13 December 1801*

St. Thomas's  
Decr. 13th. 1801

Dear Dick ——

I do not mean to put this Letter into the Post until to morrow or the Day after, I yesterday conveyed your specimens, of Fossile Shells &c. to Mr. S.; I went in company with Mr. H. whom I before went with, He also took him two specimens one was Sulphate of Lime, the other a curious specimen of Fluor Spar, Mr. S. himself was not at home, tho: his Sons were, they were very glad to recieve them and said you must come some Day & take some thing in return, One of the sons is a great Botanist the other is the Mineralogist, We spent almost three hours there, and of course mist the Anatomical Lecture, Young S. rather thought the specimen, (which you I believe thought was one of the South Sea Oyster) to be a stratum in the Chalk & wh. partook of that appearance, but he said he would ask his Father, Those Sharks Teeth of yours are nothing in comparison to some he shewd me, I saw some very large, even larger

than this, that were taken out of Lime stone & calcareous Rock, You told me not to send you any but to wait until you came up, Now I think when you call upon him; you will be astonished much beyond what you can conceive with the productions of this Kingdom, I advise you to read more about them, that you may appear to astonish them by your great & extensive knowledge, of all ye. productions of nature, – I told him when I was there before of your having a very large Fossile Nautilus, He has one as large but not in Chalk, and various other fossils, some very large cornu Ammonis.

I saw them printing Botanical plates, The Cockle you sent was nothing to be compared with one they shewd me, if I remember right you had none with spines to them like unto this somewhat; wh. is in their natural state, this was taken from Chalk,

The first Anatomical news I have to inform you is that I have been employd these two days in the little dissecting Room, dissg. for Lecture (it is a large blood Vessel subject, very fat,) in company with young Cline, Mr. Davey, & a young man who lives with Mr. Cooper, by name of Holt, he tho: is a dasher and does not stick to it, so there is only young Cline & myself most of the time, And we have enough to do, every day, I was working constantly from immediately after breakfast until Lecture time wh. is between one & two, then again after Lecture until 4 when I went to dinner, A fat subject wants more than twice as much dissn. that a lean one does, — Mr. D. seems perfectly satisfied with my performance, There are several fellows coming into ye. little Room in ye. day, saying you have got a good place of it, – I have been under the necessity of purchasing a large pair of dissecting Scissars for if you recollect those in my case were very small, —

I will send your Scissars by the next return of the Waggon, Also two pound of Figs, For if I send them by the Coach there is no telling were they will go to, And the cost will be more than they are worth. I purpose sending them in the little baskett, you sent the Hogs puddings in, – The bones I intended sending you of my subject have turnd out very soft & bad so much that, I cannot think of it, so I have given 2s.6d. for a lower male extremity very capital bones indeed, there will also be one half of the Pelvis and the largest share of the Sacrum, It was the largest boned man I ever saw, - These separate bones will be very usefull in going over Osteology, for you know it hurts a Skeleton very much to pull it about as I used old Peg and beside one can examine a bone much easier that is separated, – The next information I have to communicate is that I yesterday sold my preparation for what it cost me £1.5.0, for I was not well satisfied with it, The next subject I chose shall not be an anasarcese one I assure you, I sold it to the man who cleans, the Room & who injects sometimes His name is Butler, He buys preparations often Perhaps the next one I get may cost me 4 or 5 shillings more, for if you remember I had it cheap on account of its being anasarcs. —

I was in the dead house inspecting two bodies the other day with Mr. Davey; one was a cancerous affection (I stole his bladder), The other Man died on account of excessive dilirium brought on from a great quantity of Gin being taken into the Stomach, the Vessels of the Dura Mater seemed very turgid, He had not been in the Hospital more than 4 days; the whole of wh. time he was so violent as to be confined by straps & a straight jactett, there was also great yellowness of the skin, wh. tempted us to inspect the ductus cysticus Hepaticus, to see if there was any

obstruction; for Authors tell us that there is no yellowness of the skin ensues, an obstruction of the Hepatic duct, but only from obstructn. of the cyst. Though this was not the case for we carefully examined the duct & its entrance into the duodenum and we found no calculous, nor any obstruction of the [ . . . . ] into the intestine, He was a very strong and powerfull man, – Dr. Fordyce & Mr. Cline came to see the brain, – There was evident extravasation between the dura Mater & Cranium, also betwixt, the Pia mater & dura Mr. — The bladder of the other man I carefully dissected out with a large portion of ye. vas defferens & the vesiculae seminales & prostrate gland, and behold when I came to dissect it, the entrance of the left Ureter was distended for about an Inch in length with calculi just at its entrance into the bladder. This obstruction was not so great I concieve as but what the Urine might have filterd thro: it, This was a circumstance wh. was rather noville, & Mr. Cooper begd I would oblige him with it, & he would furnish me with an other bladder with the vesiculae, when I have prepared it & injected ye. vesiculae I will sent it down, – previous to my dissecting the vesiculae & Vas defferens I had no idea at all of their natural situation, And the entrance of the mouths of ye. excretory ducts of ye. vesiculae at the veru montanum, just within the prostrate gland, – I assure you one forms very just idea, as you must suppose from dissection.

Sister Ann, & Sister Grace; if you have heard this Letter read, you must I am shure be tired with, Fossils and Anatomy, But in speaking of a yard of the colourd Sofa cover; I will send it by ye. next return of the Waggon.

As to the Wilton Carpet I will endeavour to transmit you one after speaking to Mr. S. that I hope will meat my Fathers approbation, I shall not run furiously to buy the 1st. I see, – I may call upon Monkhouse perhaps but I have no time to run about so you must excuse me I have not been out to dinner, this Month,

I have one bit of news to tell my Father, wh. is that old Jemmy, one of ye. resurrection Men in his time was shot not more than 5 or 6 years ago, as he was at his usual employ at Deptford, He was shot by one of the Greenwich pensioners by a ball passing thro: his Head & He fell into the Coffin, this is related of old Jemmy.

I dined with Cline; Friday last, in company with, in company with his dressers, a Mr. Coleman, Mr. Day, Mr. Norwood,<sup>194</sup> & Mr. — I forget his name.

12 oClock & Mr. Davey has just been down to beg of me to come and procede, on the subject again, I went up this mornng. but the door was locked,

Attree is very little better his Mother & Brother Tom are in Town, they came solely on his account I do not know what to say of him, (not dangerous I hope) Mr. Cooper, Mr. Cline, Mr. Birch, Dr. Fordyce, & Dr. Babbington have all seen him, and neither of them can well define ye. case.

Yours affectionately,  
H Weekes.

Mr. Thos. Whitfield is staying here, [ . . . ] will be Stuard of ye. Mercht. Taylors Comp[ . . . ] next year & he has ask me to the dinner, Dick, I mean to send you my black silk breeches for they are great deal too small for me - I wear my boots and, Pantaloons now.

## LETTER NO. 31

*From Richard Weekes, [14 December 1801]. Continued by Dick and Mary Ann Weekes*

Hampton —

We recd. your Letter & I suppose you recd. our parcell by the Waggon, but I dont know what Dick pack'd up nor indeed what he wrote but that he wrote you about a Carpet, if you cannot buy one of the proper size & one that will last many years, dont buy it, as nothing but strength will do for us, it must be thick & close.

Now for answering your last letter, & first I dont want a Male Sceleton nor do you, unless you could buy the bones of a Muscular subject after dissection cheap, if not wait. —

I approve of your dissecting for the Museum & Lectures. Wm. Borrer has not paid me for the Skeleton, but I suppose you have, & so I have sent you up another £10 note, as you will want money to pay for the Carpet & the Sofa shd. be paid for, let me know what it is, What have the Demonstrators pr. Annum Where they both Apprentices at the Hospital? I believe it is the general opinion that Opium is a stimulant it raises the pulse altho. it renders the Heart slower, You ask for the particulars of Stanings Case, they are as follows what I can recollect of it & from consulting the Ledger It was the 24th of December that he was shot with a Pistol ball thro: the Liver the ball enterd between the false ribs & came out just below the cartilago ensiformis, I believe the Diaphragm was not wounded, by which I suppose the ball passed during expiration – there was a very considerable hemorrhage, which continued at intervals for several days, even to the 24th. day of the next month Jany. several portions of the Liver sluffed away & came out of the wound between the Costae, the Liver became very much enlarged & a vast tumifaction of the whole of the Abdomen the peristaltic motion of the Intestines was impeded, he had a Hiccup for many days & a Cough which is common in affections of the Liver, vast quantities of bile was discharged from the wound as yellow as Saffron the Skin & Tunica Conjunctiva of the Eyes was Tinctured with bile &c – Enema's, Lenitive Medicines & Fomentations with Anodynes where principally resorted to, & he was so much better in about 6 Weeks that I saw him but once in 2 or 3 days but the wound in the Epygastric region did not heal under 5 or 6 months. —

One day this Week I had four Labours from 5 in the afternoon till 1 next morning one at West Town one at Poynings, one at Cleyton Street, & the 4th. at Street Green, Dick came with the Man to me about 10. OClock to Cleyton, for me to go to Street, I told the man I would come as soon as I could get away, but as they where riding back to stone pound Dick told the man he would go, he did so, & had Deliverd the Woman & brought away the Placenta just before I came there was only Dick Marchants wife & Dame Leary there, he made out pretty well & is not a little pleased. —

<sup>194</sup> Favell Coleman entered 30 September 1801. Edward Norwood was Cline's dresser in 1799; entered 10 August.



*Letter No. 31*

We go to Cuckfield Henfield, or Walhurst<sup>195</sup> every day almost. – 3 of our patients out of 5 in the Natural Small Pox are Dead last Sunday I was sent for by Burtenshaw to just by Noackes's and used the Perforator, the Yellow fever (as I call it) continues about here Chs. Waller has got it, the Skin the Urine the Mucus from the Lungs is all highly tintured with bile, When you send again send 2pd. of Lent Figs.

Our Number is come up a nine pound prize so I have sent it to you to get the Money I suppose you will not recieve more than 40 Shillings if you do so much, as there is a very considerable discount particularly if paid directly.

Wm. Borrer has just recd. your two letters owing to your not writing Hurst near Brighton —

My Dear Hampton I have nothing more to say to you only to express my entire satisfaction with your conduct hitherto & I make no doubt at all of your continuing so, – so good night, the rest I leave for Dick. – I am sorry for poor Attree.

We dont know J. M. Cripps's address as he is coming home very soon – Grace & I have wrote out all the Christmas Bills already but I have wrote a great many of them in short. We play at Chess every Night and well too – I will beat you for sixpence any when. – You are to learn Backgammon my father says and Billiards too but not for Money tho: tell what Sowerby says to you. in the next Letter

Next Thursday I go to Henfield Ball. – Franco comes home next Day, and she is as fat as a Mullet. – Walker, from Lewes is comeing to linfield, & I believe Ansel, from Seaford, to Cuckfield. he married one of the Miss Evans's I believe —

If you want news for your noble society tell them the case of Dr. Denmans's Girls Knee. —

We have been very busy indeed and have plenty of business at present, – Old Paulo has been very ill with a cold. – Remember me to Sherwood tell him I wish him joy – Mrs. Wynne is Dead —

John Newnham, has lately sent his Dungannon, his Trantum, & the Little Mare that Pain bought for (Mrs. Newnham, for 20 Guineas,) to London for Sale, & they were bid so little for them that Nye, bought them, in again at £37, Mr . Pain & Nye, were there 8 or 10 days, and Sold only Mrs. Newnham's, for 12 Guineas, & brought the other, two home again, So that, the Mare, about paid Nye's & Pains expeneces, Horese keep. &c.&c. he has just, bt. a Stallion, of the Prince, of Wales, for one Hundred, & Fifty, Guineas which is soon coming to Newtimber – Send the Carpet as soon as you possably can, —

Dear Tony

the Borrer's & I are now, great Friends. Mrs. B. & the Girls, have called here two days Running for us to Walk with them, Sarah, B. cannot find out what it is you write about to W. Borrer, W. Borrer does not wish it to be known, he tells Grace & I not to tell her, she talks a great deal of you, she tells Dick she has seen his buck Boots look better, meaning when you had them on.

adieu, yours sincerely,  
M.A Weekes —

<sup>195</sup> See map for names of hamlets in this letter.

## LETTER NO. 32

*To Richard Weekes, 14 December [1801]*

St. Thomas's Decr. 14th.

Dear Father —

Yours containing two five pound Notes I this day recieved, immediately upon which I thought I had as good go at once & pay Smith for the Sofa, And you will find he has charged 10s.6d. more than I informed you he would, he would have charged more still by 6s. wh. I made him throw off as you will see by the Bill, then he told me he got nothing by it, and never would make such a Sofa with covers again for any body, I have left out of the money but very little as you will see, I had not enough by 10s.6d. to pay for W. Borrers Skeleton, 8 or 9 shillings I owe for washing 3s. for Letters, and as to ye. Scissars, Figgs, and other trifling things it will amount to something more my hair I must have cut, all these things I mention that you may not be surprised what becomes of my money,

When I get the money for your prize I think I may as well keep it, and when so done that will not last me a great while, depend 'ont I will keep all I can,

Mrs. Attree and daughters that are at school at Teddington dined here yesterday and to day,

This sheet of paper I got from Attree's stock it is 2s, a quire,

Our Lectures on the Arteries close to morrow we have been working on the Arteries given off by the descending Aorta, both in the Thorax and Abdomen, and we found two Spermatic Arteries one ye. right side only one on ye. left, In the left Arm we had no brachial artery for the Radial and Ulnar Artery were given off as high up as the Axillary Artery, wh. Mr. Cooper says is no uncommon occurrence, The gastrica sinistra was given off out of the substance of the spleen, it generally goes off from the body of ye. Splenic Artery.

Mr. Davey praised me for dissecting the coronary Artery of ye. Stomach and particularly the Oesophageal Arteries very well as he said they seldom were dissd. well, – I had a hint thrown out yesterday, that the demonstrators had, £150, a Year. Mr. Davey was apprentice to the Hospital, Saunders was not, – Davey tells me he will afford me some part of this subject but he does not know wh. at present, – I want to come in for the bladder & rectum for the Arteries are nicely injected,

There was a male pelvis injected yesterday and two of the pupils went halves, I do not know how you would like a section of this kind, but I will inform you, what sort of an idea it conveys when it is done it appears at present as if it would give a very good one.

I am glad Dr. Dick has ventured a bold stroke for a Wife, there is nothing like it I assure you Dr. appear to be develish knowing, tell them you have been to 50 as I did that fellow at Street green who immediately said I told a damd lie, never mind that, Dr. —

We have some surprising cases here some times of small pox, for a patient comes in here with one affection and an other & after being in here for a month or more fails with small pox, when it had not been in the Hospital for months before,

*Letter No. 33*

We now have a case of natural confluent small pox; a woman who has miscarried in co[. . .] perfectly formed of I believe 4 months [. . . . .] Whitfield, gave it me, I do not value it much, Don has offerd me 3s. for it, he is crazy for it, it is very perfectly formd about 4 Inches long,

Dr. Dick the right bronchial artery is given of from the inferior intercostal, The left from the Aorta,

I must conclude for I have only half an hour to spare before the time is up,

I will answer some other particulars in your Letter when I send the &cs. by Knowles,

John Bull jnr. of Pangdean calld here to day but I did not see him for I was dissectg.

I remain yours  
dutifully

H Weekes

Dr. Dick, I should not send you by Knowles my silk small clothes but that they are too small for me, adieu,

**LETTER NO. 33**

*To Richard Weekes, 16 December 1801*

St. Thomas's Decr. 16th.  
1801

Dear Father

I have the shortest time possible to write a few words to you, in the first place this morning I have been in a fidget, for the fellow that attends the dissg. Room had carried my bones to his own house, as he says by mistake, but I do not believe that, however with some trouble I got them again, I have bored holes into them, but I am informd the cancelli, should not be broken down untill they have been maceratin 2 or 3 months,

W.Borrer called on me yesterday & paid me for the Skeleton, he had but a very short time to stay otherwise I should have been very glad to have accompanyd him to Sowerbys, he left a plant with me it is a Euphorbium or Spurge, I will shew it to Sowerby.

I assure you it will be a difficult thing to by all the bones of a subject, for the pupils take a subject, & it is divided, into quarters, or if it is a very capital one they keep it themselves,

If I shall send you the money for your prize write me word to that effect, but with that & W.B.'s £5 it will not be more than enough to purchase a carpet such as you speak of,

I have not had time to Breakfast this morning for I had but just time to finish the Charicature I sent with the drawing of the Muscles,

I was afraid to clean the bones more apprehending I should interrupt the processes,

*Letter No. 34*

The fellow who had the poker thrust down his throat was an Opera house performer, & very much indebt, And endeavoured to defend himself, when the officers came to arrest him, The full particulars I cannot learn, but that the man is prosicuted for it, and fined. The Surgeons are Mr. Long & Sir James Earle<sup>196</sup> who has An E upon his snuff Box, It was Sir James Earle of Bartholomews who imprisoned the fellow for it,

I remain yours  
dutifully  
HW —

NB. I have sent the Bills and reciepts of ye. Sophas, &c, I forget If I told you that they had workd up all the covering & had not, a yard of it —

**LETTER NO. 34**

*To Richard Weekes, 2 January 1802*

St. Thomas's Jany. 2d. 1802

Dear Father —

I write in the first place to inform you that I have been expecting to recieve a letter from you several days past, for I have not heard from Hurst since I sent my last package by Knowles's Waggon

I drank tea with Mr. Sparrow Thursday Evening when I spoke to him about perchasing a carpet, But he says as to Wilton carpets there are no such things now but Brussels are those that he has got & such as he would recommend or a Turkey, And as to sailes he knows no more about them than you or I do but by looking in ye. newspapers, This Brussels Carpets he buys by ye. yard he gives 6s. tho: there are prizes wh. excede this, And he recommends me there as it is a place that they may be bought at a much cheaper rate that you can at a large Warehouse, He is well persuaded of this he said, also that he would go with me at any time,

I went for your prize; when I recieved £1. 18s. 0d. as that was all I were to recieve, This I have quite reduced by payg. one necessary expense & the other also by giving 3 half crowns to ye. servants as a Xmas box wh. I am persuaded Will not be thrown away, I do not yet know what you think of it, but when you consider that Dick is to succede me, it I believe you will think is right.

Mr. Whitfield, left St. Thomas's Yesterday morning early with Mrs. W. to go on a visit until Tuesday to his mother & Brothers who are all together generally at denham about 21 Miles out of Town, He has left me in care again, — Before he went Fixott asked him if he might invite two or three young men to dine with him new Years day, when he after some little time concented to it, ye. dinner cost him 2:2:0 or more, We had a boild Turkey & a tongue, a brace of wild Ducks, roasted and 6s. worth of mincè

<sup>196</sup> William Long (1784–1807) and Sir James Earle (1755–1817) were both surgeons to St Bartholomew's Hospital.

*Letter No. 34*

pyes, – You must know that I shared none of ye. expense, Fixott & his three companions went to Covent Garden afterward, but I did not making a good excuse & also a very just one that I must not runaway & leave ye. Hospital.

Mr. Cline's Lecture terminate about ye. 12th. inst. & begin again on ye. 20th. so if you think it worth while that I shd. make you a visit, you will inform me to that effect, I have lately got thro: ye. lower extremity of ye. subject wh. was for Lecture & wh. was given to me by Mr. Davey, & ye. section of ye. Pelvis is much more to my satisfaction than my other clumsy thing was & I long to get it dry to send it to Hurst, with ye. Femur of an Elephant wh. Mr. Cooper has given me, (It was dissected here & died at ye. Tower<sup>197</sup>) I have had frequent opportunity of conversing with him lately as he comes every day to see Attree who will I believe be going into Sussex in about a fortnight, (This Femor is very like ye. human Femor)——

I have mad a Breviary of Arteries taken from ye. 2d. edition of Winslow & from what I have been able to observe in my late dissection of ye. Arteries, I have made it as short as ye. sense would allow me to, It was what we wanted I think when I were at home.

Mr. W. has recommended me to attend one of ye. nurses who lies in a little way off ye. latter end of Febuary, she tells me; I thank'd him for it,

I am just come from dinner Fixott & I off a Hare wh. was for to morrows dinner but I dine with Sparrow, Mrs. Attree, and Mrs. Ustiman who is a person with whom Mrs. A. lodges with, they were looking on,

I suppose you have been so busy carrying bills that you have not been able to write,

I am taking ye. cases of two bad fractures from Wheels passing over one ye. elbow ye. other ye. Anle & in both ye. capsular ligament was compleatly toren thro: but in neither was ye. extremity amputated, but I fear they will not do quite well, In one instance ye. third day Pulse 128 with a vast deal of tension,

I mentiond Stannings case before our society who seemd very much surprized, I also mentiond it to Cooper who never heard of such an instance in his life, some few questions were put to me the particulars of wh. I certainly could not speak among wh. how much simptomatic fever took place? how ye. Pulse were? how long ye. bile continued discharging from ye. posterior opening &c; however they seemd very glad to hear it indeed, they supposed to a certainty that ye. man could not survive long after I said yes in perfect health as ever in his life,

I have very little time indeed longer to write, Is Breads arrived at Hurst yet? I would wish you or Dick to write soon, If dick I beg of him to write as small as he advised me & not such great awkward stuff as I am apt to see of his, It does not look neat,

A Case of mine is before our society at present & has been discussed one night & is to go on next meeting, We have elected Mr. Davey & an other cleaver fellow as presidents to take ye. chair in turn this to be constant,

Mrs. Whitfield brings her little girl home on Tuesday I believe,

<sup>197</sup> Astley Cooper would study any dead animal he could, including all those that died in the menagerie at the Tower of London. For graphic details of this dissection see Bransby Cooper, *op. cit.*, note 124 above, vol. 1, p. 336. It is stated that it took place at Cooper's house in St Mary Axe rather than at St Thomas's, which Hampton claims.

*Letter No. 35*

I hope all at home are well, Is Bull in ye. stable? does he go better than he did, I begin very much to want to hear from you.

I have not began my £5 yet, but am very much affraid I must be under ye. necessity in a very little time, every thing is very dear here I assure you,

I do not know if I spend more money than you did, Or if more than you expected, but I trust I do not spend more than Dick would,

I have been employd for this Week at my breviary of Arteries. —

I remain Yours dutifully

Hampton Weekes.

I am just going to work entring ye. medicines in ye. books, that was prescribed to day.

**LETTER NO. 35**

*From Richard Weekes [n.d., early January 1802]. Continued by Dick Weekes*

Hampton

I write in haste as I want to be on horseback In the 1st. place I hear John Breads has got the Bailiffs in his house & a young Farmer has been with me from Wittersham wishing to take the Farm believe he will give £150 per Annum his name is Bates – I have not seen Breads nor has he pd. any rent so if I dont hear from him by Sunday shall sent up Hanington to make a distress Monday next, & to eject him out of the Farm<sup>198</sup> – We have had an Invitation to a great Ball at Newtimber Dick only was there the Weather so bad the Girls could not go. Dick & Grace has been to the ball at Henfield also. and to a Ball at Lewes this Xmas, What do you think Mrs. Newnham is going to break up Housekeeping at Newtimber has dischargd. all her Servants & is going to live at a little house at Henfield next door to Mrs. Fosters, Pain has cheated them they say of £3000 there is a sad to do, my bill is £30. I wish I had it. Dr. Lewis is Dead, you had better not come down at this time of the year, We have not carried out more than half our bills, The Xmas bills £420. —

Enclosed I have sent you a £10 Note with which you may buy us a Brussels Carpet, we know nothing about it - therefore send it compleat, – Bull is just such a fool as he used to be & I wish I had sold him I have offerd him for £45. but fancy shall not get so much money for him he is poor & eats little Corn. You have had the length & breadth of the Room but least you should have forgot, thee length 18 Ft & ½ breadth, 13. feet get one that will not show the dirt much and is very thick & strong, & close woven.

Gett a good one, and neat one

I hope you keep an account of all moneys that I have sent you - I think you do - when you want more let me know, – do call upon Mr. Holmer & tell him I shall send him up some money to buy in the stocks, & desire him to take the Interest of what I have which will be due in Feby. & buy in again with my Compliments to the family

<sup>198</sup> In his will, Richard Weekes left his land at Wittersham to Hampton. This would most likely have been inherited from Richard's father. The unsatisfactory tenant, John Breads, was at Wittersham in Kent, not at Hurst.

*Letter No. 35*

We are full of the small Pox got 26 at Harry Wickhams, 2 at Broad street & Paulo<sup>199</sup> has got a Family at the Pesthouse,<sup>200</sup> Dame Denman & Children Dick Innoculated them but as it is Paulo's year to attend the poor he would have them.

Here is a great to do about taxing Dr. Dodson for his Tythe the parish all in agitation having councils opinion &c.&c. —

Dear Brother

In the first place the girls at all the Balls asked after you very much – I think Fixott is a dashing fellow —

I should like to have the Elephants Femur very much – remember me to all that ask after me – how is Attree now? – I have been to Dickes wife at Carlton house Poynings as Robt. Gallup calls it. I was there abt. 6 hours when she was brought to bed of a boy they where pretty well satisfied – You shd. make a breviary of the Viens and Lymphatics too. We are full of business now Small Pox and one thing and the other bill carrying &cc. — your questions abt. Stannings case you may answer yourself. (those little Particulars.) Sir you pay me a fine compliment abt. my writing so small – We are all in good health, write soon and send us down three or five Pound of Cacao more, when you send down the Carpett the Cacao was very good indeed equal to Chocolate almost. make haste with the Carpet femur Cacao breviary [. . . . .] &cc. and send by Knowles —

have you been to Sowerby's lately? you have sent me hardly any thing as yett, I shall expect something or other in the next arrival —

Your silk breeches exactly fit me, and I can tell you I cut quite a dash in them and black silk Stockings —

I wish you would send me down a pudding or something to put in my Neckcloth. as I can get no such thing here. – make the best use of your eyes as J.E. says – We think the Caricature and head is most capitally done. they both hang up over the great parlour fire for public inspection - some take the head to be the Devil – I have had a little Skaiting. Harvy Kemp has been here and is well – do you write smaller, closer and longer Letters and often too – I have very little news to tell you – We had a letter from J.M. Cripps lately wherein he says he has been to the Pyramids Alixandria &c – and comes home in the Spring I think – Jno. Newnham report says is now going to College. Grace had Leeches on Yesterday on one Eye. Perhaps I shall call on you soon and stay a Day or 2. I have nothing more to say therefore conclude with good wishes and all the Compts. of the Season.

Remain Your Affectionate Brother

R Weekes

(Hurst is dead as ever)

<sup>199</sup> Presumably another surgeon-apothecary in opposition to the Weekes, but he has remained untraceable.

<sup>200</sup> A small cottage in Bedlam Street about half a mile south of Hurst, where it still stands with the same name, as a private house. It was given to the parish by Henry Campion in 1750 and was used as a pest-house until 1877, when it was sold for £179 3s.8d. and the proceeds put towards the new Hurstpierpoint Smallpox Hospital, ESRO Par 400/35/117 and 24/88, 89.