CASE
OF
CAROTID ANEURISM,
SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

BY GILES LYFORD, Esq.

COMMUNICATED IN A LETTER TO

ASTLEY COOPER, Esq.

Read Dec. 7, 1819.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE much pleasure in communicating to you the successful termination of a case of carotid aneurism, in which scarcely any unpleasant symptoms occurred during the progress of the cure.

Richard Kinchen, about 36 years of age, was admitted into the Winchester Hospital the 25th of October, 1818, with a tumor about the size of a hen's egg, extending from under the angle of the jaw of the left side, below the thyroid cartilage, possessing every characteristic of carotid aneurism. The account he gave of himself was, that he obtained his livelihood by bringing fish from the shore to the market; that he had been in the habit of carrying

large baskets of oysters on the shoulder of the same side on which the tumor was situated ; that about three weeks previous to his admission to the hospital, he had, for the first time, discovered a swelling in the neck, which he attributed to cold, from its being accompanied with cough and head-ache. On the evening of his admission, he was seized with so violent a palpitation in the tumor and throbbing in the head, that it was thought necessary to take away from twelve to fourteen ounces of blood, which relieved him. The next day he took a dose of salts, and was directed to live low ; an evaporating lotion was kept constantly to the part. He experienced so much relief from these means as to make him hesitate whether he should submit to the operation. On the 30th, the operation was performed in the usual way, in the presence of several medical gentlemen of the neighbourhood. A single ligature only was applied, and that with facility. Immediately after the ligature was tied, the palpitation subsided, and the patient expressed himself by saying that something had fallen from the head into the part, and that his head was now quite comfortable. The edges of the wound were brought together by means of a single suture, and strips of adhesive plaster placed at such distances as to allow of a free discharge ; not a single unpleasant symptom occurred during the whole progress of the cure, with the exception of a troublesome cough, which yielded to the occasional use of opiates, and the potassæ nitras, and

syrupus papaveris. The tumor gradually subsided, and on the 26th of November, which was near a month from the operation, the ligature came away with the dressings without any degree of force being used.

On the 21st of January, 1819, a slight hemorrhage took place from the sore, which immediately subsided on the application of cold; from this time nothing further occurred, and scarcely any traces of the tumor could be discovered; a very small sinus however remained at the part at which the ligature separated, which baffled all our efforts, he was therefore, on the 17th of February, made an out-patient. About six weeks afterwards I had an opportunity of seeing him, the sinus had healed, and he was in every respect in perfect health. If you think this case worthy the attention of the public, you will have the goodness to make such use of it as you think proper.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
very faithfully Yours,

GILES LYFORD.

Winchester,
Aug. 13, 1819.