CASE

IN WHICH

A PIECE OF IRON

WAS FOUND

IN A CYST WITHIN THE THORAX,
WHERE IT HAD REMAINED FOR FOURTEEN YEARS;

By DAVID GALE ARNOT, Esq. M.R. C.I.

SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL-SHIP GRAMPUS.

COMMUNICATED BY

C. I. ROBERTS, M.D.

Read November 9, 1826.

WILLIAM HUNT, aged forty-four, was admitted on board the Seaman's Hospital on the 23d February, 1826, with severe inflammation of the contents of the thorax, and died in a few hours. On admission, he stated that in 1812 he received a wound in his left side from a musket-ball, which was still in his chest, and that since that period he had been subject to violent inflammations after exposure to wet or cold. The present attack came on a few days ago after arriving from sea, where he had been much exposed to cold.

Sectio Cadaveris.

On opening the thorax the attention was directed to the left side, principally for the reason that there was a very obvious depression observable on the surface of the third rib. Continuing the examination, which was pursued with extreme caution, a cyst was seen, which was found to contain a piece of iron hoop about an inch in length, and of the form of a crescent. The lung of that side was completely hepatized. The upper part of the trachea and bronchia contained pus. The other lung was comparatively sound, inasmuch as the bronchia of that side did not contain pus; neither was that lung hepatized. — There were slight adhesions.