

JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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BIOGRAPHY.

The Progress of Genius.

FROM OBSCURE AND LOW SITUATIONS, TO EMINENCE AND CELEBRITY.

Genius is that gift of God which learning cannot confer, which no disadvantages of birth or education can wholly obscure.

JOHN OLIGBIE, The Author of the "Book of Roads," and a learned & voluminous writer, was originally a dancing-master.

Having settled at Cambridge he applied himself to the study of the learned languages; and besides the completion of a number of other works in which this distinguished man engaged, he translated VIRGIL and OSEER into English verse. Mr OLIGBIE was appointed Geographical Printer to the King.

WILLIAM PALRY, D. D., The learned and ingenious author of so many useful and popular treatises, was, one time of his life, Assistant in the school at reentwich, from which situation he rose to considerable eminence and celebrity in the church; and his Elements of Moral and Political Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity, and Natural Theology, will perpetuate his fame, and make his name be revered wherever these works are known.

WILLIAM BUCHAN.—This popular medical writer was descended of a respectable family in Roxburghshire, and was born at Ancram, in the year 1729. Having passed through the usual school education, he was sent to the university Edinburgh. His inclination leading him to mathematics he became so considerable a proficient in that branch of science, as to be enabled to give private lessons to many of the pupils. Having made choice of medicine for his profession, he attended the lectures of the several professors, to qualify him for practice; and as he was of a studious turn of mind, his progress in knowledge may be supposed to have been equal to his application.

After having passed a period of not less than ten years at the university, he first settled in practice at Sheffield, in Yorkshire. He was soon afterwards elected physician to a large branch of the Foundling hospital, then established at Ackworth. In the course of two years, he reduced

the annual number of deaths among the children from one half to one in fifteen; and by the establishment of due regulations for the preservation of health, greatly diminished the previously burthensome expence of medical attendance. In this situation, he derived from experience that knowledge of the complaints, and of the general treatment of children, which was afterwards published in "The Domestic Medicine," and in the "Advice to Mothers;" works which, considering their very general diffusion, have no doubt tended to meliorate the treatment of children, and consequently, to improve the constitutions of the present generation of the inhabitants of this country. When that institution was dissolved, in consequence of parliament withdrawing their support from it, Dr. Buchan returned to Edinburgh, where he became a fellow of the royal college of physicians, and settled in the practice of his profession, relying, in some measure, on the countenance and support of the relations of the lady he married, who was of a respectable family in that city. On the death of one of the professors, the doctor offered himself as a candidate for the vacant chair, but did not succeed.

About this period, the work entitled "Domestic Medicine," was first published, with the view of laying open the science of medicine, and rendering it familiar to the comprehension of mankind in general. In this plan he was encouraged by the late Dr. Gregory, of liberal memory, who was of opinion, that to render medicine generally intelligible, was the only means of putting an end to the impostures of quackery. The work was also patronized by, and dedicated to, Sir John Pringle, then president of the Royal Society, and a distant relation of the author. This work has had a degree of success unequalled by any other medical book in the English language. It has also been translated into every European language. On its appearing in Russia, the late Empress Catharine transmitted to the author a large and elegant medal of gold, accompanied by a letter expressive of her sentiments of the utility of his exertions towards promoting the welfare of mankind in general. Yet successful as this work has proved, Dr. Buchan's expectations from it were not great, and he sold the copyright, in 1771, for a very inconsiderable sum; but the liberal purchaser, the late Mr Cadell, and his successors, made the doctor a handsome present, on revising each edition, of which he lived to see nineteen published, amounting to upwards of 30,000 copies. It has likewise been printed in Ireland and America, and pirated in various shapes in England, but without much diminution either of the sale or credit of the authentic work.

On the death of Fergusson, the celebrated lecturer on natural philosophy, which took place about the year 1775, he bequeathed to the doctor the whole of his apparatus. Unwilling that this collections, which, at that period, was, perhaps, the best this country could boast of, should remain shut up and useless, the doctor, with the assistance of his son who conducted the experi-

mental part, delivered several courses of lectures during three years, at Edinburgh, with great success, the theatre being always crowded with auditors. On removing to London, he disposed of this apparatus to Dr. Lettsom. Of natural philosophy, the part which particularly attracted the doctor's attention, was astronomy. Nothing delighted him more, than to point out the celestial phenomena, on a fine star-light evening, to any young person who appeared willing to receive information; and the friendship of the late astronomer royal, Dr. Maskelyne, afforded him every facility of renovating his acquaintance with the planetary bodies, whonover so inclined.

He was possessed of a most retentive memory, which was particularly exemplified in his recollection of the Bible, which, in his more early years, he had been much accustomed to peruse with attention. On an appeal being made to him concerning any particular text of scripture, he hardly ever erred in giving the very words of which it consisted, and pointing out the precise chapter and verse where it was to be found. The same faculty furnished him with an infinite fund of amusing anecdotes, which he used to relate in a good-humoured and entertaining manner. This talent rendered his company much courted by private circles and interfered with that assiduous attention to business requisite to insure success to a medical practitioner in the metropolis, which his popular reputation and pleasing manners were, in other respects, well calculated to obtain. He latterly confined his practice to giving advice at home, and, in that way, did much business.

He died, February 25th, 1805, in the seventysixth year of his age, and is buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey. His son, A. P. Buchan, M. D. succeeded to the talents and reputation of his father.

SCRIPTURE GEOGRAPHY.

THE LAKE OF GENNESARETH OR THE SEA OF GALLILEE.

Though of much narrower dimensions, does not yield in beauty to the Dead Sea. This immense lake was anciently called the Sea of Chinnereth or Cinneroth. The description which Josephus has left us of it is like all the other pictures drawn by him, admirably faithful in the detail of local features. "Now this lake of Genesareth, is so called from the country adjoining to it. Its breadth is forty furlongs, and its length one hundred and forty; its waters are sweet and very agreeable for drinking, for they are finer than the thick waters of the fons; the lake is also pure, and on every side ends directly at the shores, and at the sand; and it is also of a temperate nature when you draw it up, and of a more gentle nature than river or fountain water, and yet always cooler than one could expect in so diffuse a place as this is. Now, when this water is kept in the open air, it is as cold as that snow which the country people are accustomed to make by night in summer. There are several kinds of fish in it both different to the taste and the sight from those elsewhere." All these features are drawn with an accuracy that could only have been attained by one resident in the country, the size is still nearly the same, the borders of the lake end at the beach, or the sands, at the feet of the mountains which environ it; its waters are still as sweet and temperate.