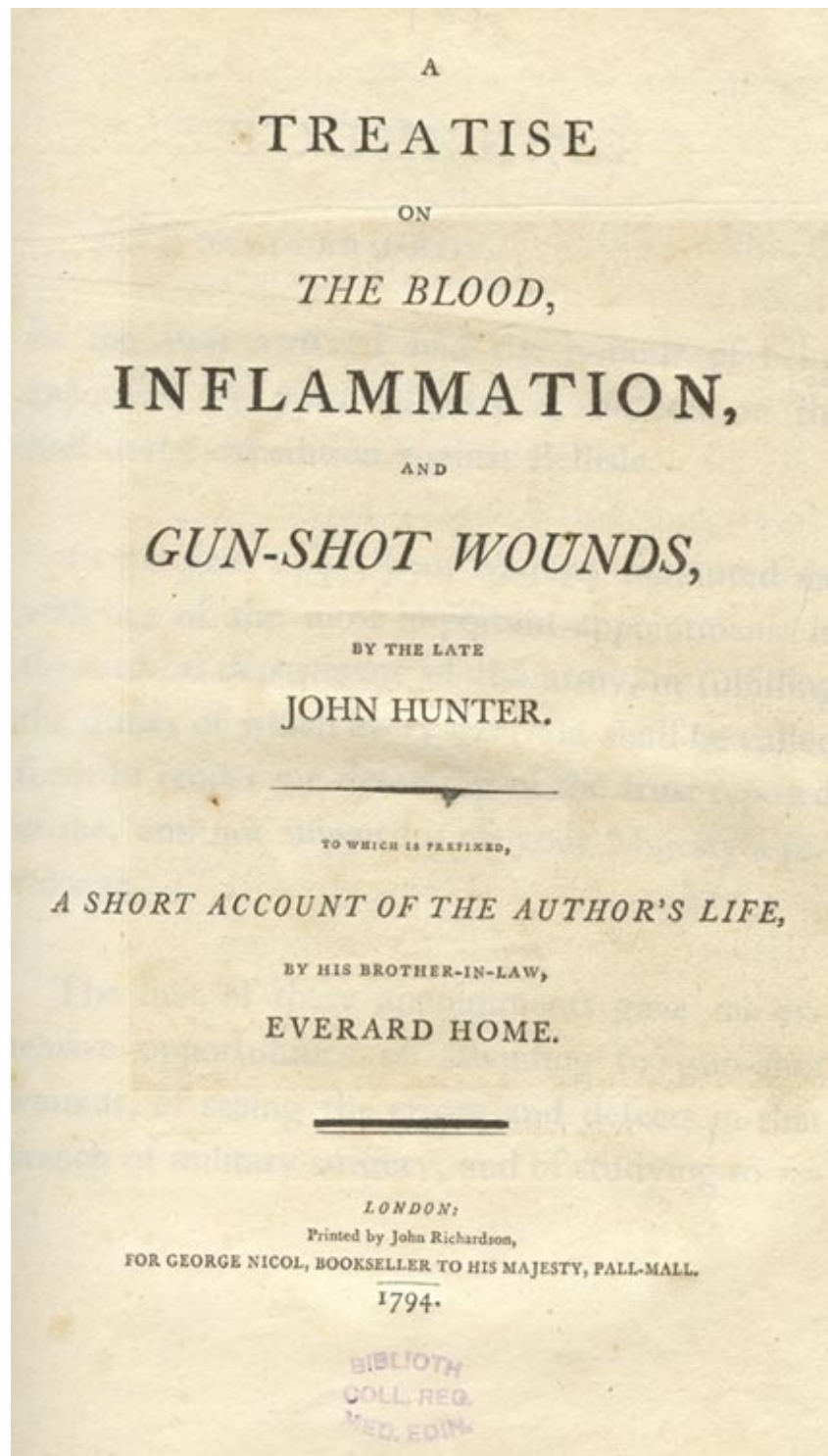


Hunter J (1794). A treatise on the blood, inflammation and gun-shot wounds. London: G Nichol, p 531.

Title pages

As a proof of the inutility of opening gun-shot wounds as a general practice, I shall mention the cases of four Frenchmen, and a British soldier, wounded on the day of the landing of our army on the island of Belleisle; and as this neglect rather arose from accident than design, there is no merit claimed from the mode of treatment.

Case I. A. B. was wounded in the thigh by two balls, one went quite through, the other lodged somewhere in the thigh, and was not found while he was under our care.

II. B. C. was shot through the chest; he spit blood for some little time.

III. C. D. was shot through the joint of the knee: the ball entered at the outer edge of the patella, crossed the joint under that bone, and came out through the inner condyle of the os femoris.

IV. D. E. was shot in the arm: the ball entered at the inside of the insertion of the deltoid muscle, passed towards the head of the os humeris, then between the scapula and ribs, and lodged between the basis of the scapula and spinal processes, and was afterwards extracted. The man's arm was extended horizontally when the ball entered, which accounts for this direction.

These four men had not any thing done to their wounds for four days after receiving them, as they had hid themselves in a farm-house all that time after we had taken possession of the island; and when they were brought to the hospital, their wounds were only dressed superficially, and they all got well.

A grenadier of the 30th regiment was shot through the arm, the ball seemed to pass between the biceps muscle and the bone; he was taken prisoner by the French. The arm swelled considerably, they fomented it freely, and a superficial dressing only was applied. About a fortnight after the accident he made his escape, and came to our hospital; but by that time the swelling had quite subsided, and the wounds healed; there only remained a stiffness in the joint of the elbow, which went off by moving it.