

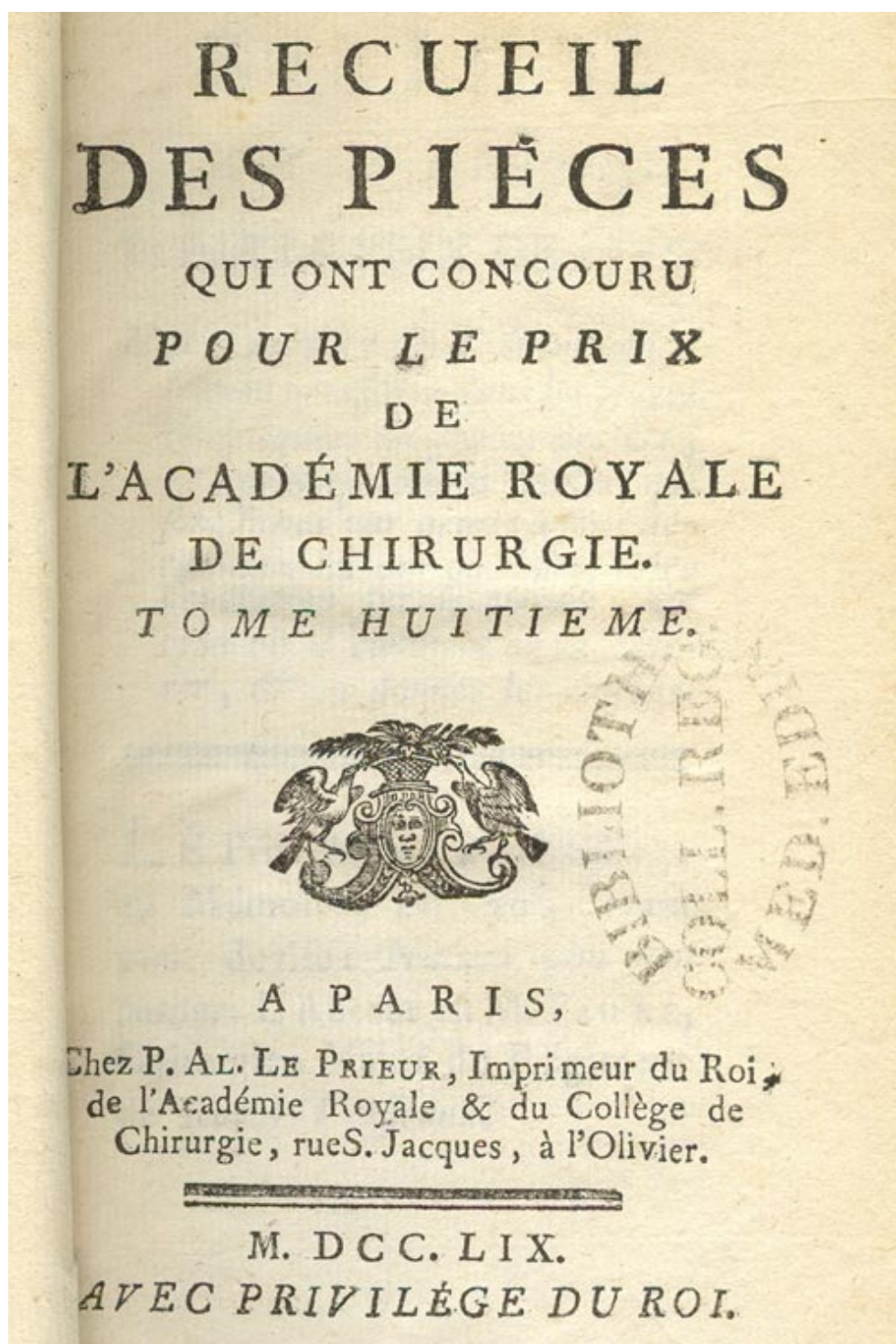
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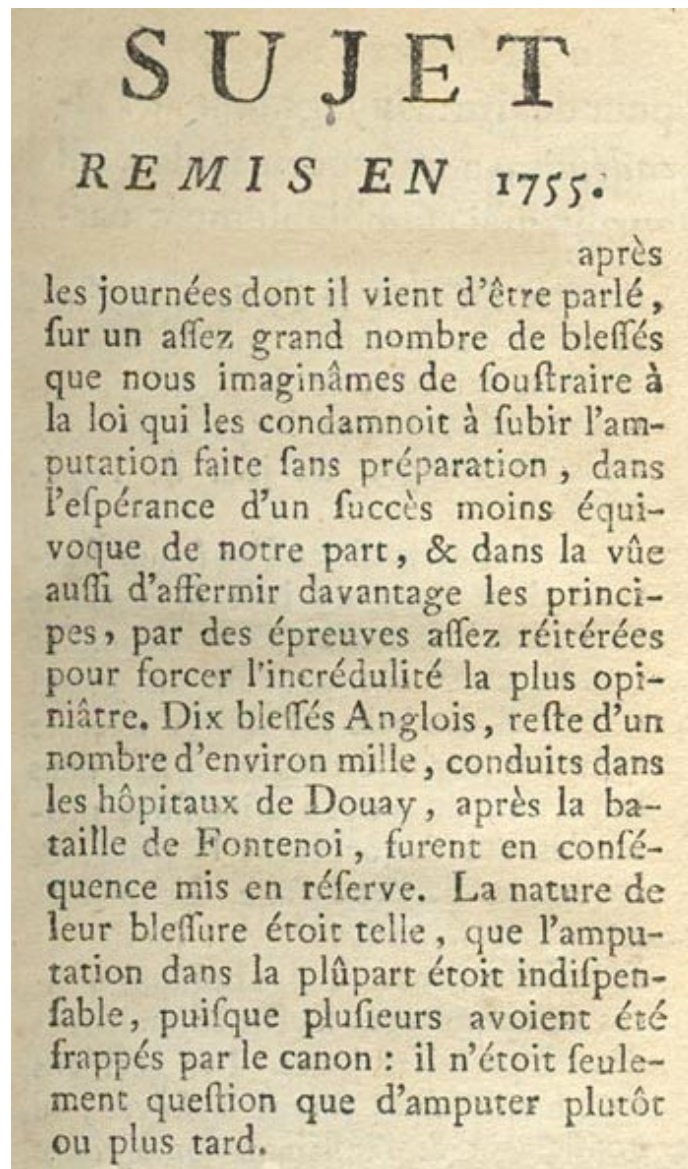
Title Page(s) Key Passage(s) Context

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Faure (1759). Recueil des piéces qui ont concouru pour le prix de L'Académie Royale de Chirurgie Vol 8. [Collection of reports that competed for the prize of the Royal Academy of Surgery] Paris, P.Al Le Prieur.

Title pages





Translation

But, to put this proposal as strongly as possible, let us recall the experiment that we had the occasion to make ourselves, after these days which have just been described, on a quite large number of wounded whom we considered would have been covered by the rule that would have condemned them to amputation without preparation. [This experiment was done] in the hope that we would have a less equivocal success and also in order to affirm the principles by tests repeated sufficiently to overcome the disbelief of the most prejudiced. Ten English wounded, out of a number of about one thousand who had been taken to the hospitals of Douay after the battle of Fontenoy, were therefore set aside. Their wounds were such that amputation was essential in most of them because many of them had been wounded by cannon-shot: it was simply a question of whether the amputation was carried out sooner or later.

Voilà dix faits bien propres à appuyer les principes que nous exposons ici (a) : car tandis que par la méthode ordinaire on voyoit périr une si grande quantité d'amputés, j'eus le bonheur de sauver les dix de ma réserve en les préparant à l'amputation. Si cette expérience n'eût été faite que sur un, deux, & même trois blessés réchappés par cette méthode, ce seroit toujours un préjugé favorable de sa solidité. Mais il me paroît difficile de ne pas être frappé d'une épreuve répétée jusqu'à dix fois, & avec un succès toujours pareil, & notamment dans les espèces de blessures dont il est ici question, qui exigèrent trois amputations de bras, y compris une dans l'article, deux de cuisse, trois de jambe, & deux de l'avant-bras.

(a) J'ai pour témoins de ces dix faits M^{rs}. Majaut, père & fils, qui signèrent tous les deux le détail qui en fut remis par moi à M. de la Peyronie; M^{rs}. Dufour & Henri, Chirurgiens employés à l'Hôpital de Douay; & M. Delaitre, Chirurgien Aide-major de l'armée, qui visita ces dix blessés pour en rendre compte à M. Andouillé, Chirurgien major.

Translation

The following are ten cases very suitable for supporting the principles that we are setting out here (a). Though, using the ordinary method, one sees so many amputees perish, I had the good fortune to save the ten [patients] I had reserved, by preparing them for amputation. Had this experiment been carried out on only one, two, or even three wounded [men] who were recovered by this method, that would even so have been a favourable indication of its reliability. But it seems to me difficult not to be impressed by an experiment repeated ten times and always with the same success. This is particularly so in the type of wounds in question which required three amputations of the arm, including one through the [elbow] joint, two of the thigh, three of the leg and two of the forearm.

(a) I have as witnesses of these ten cases Messrs. Majaut, père et fils who both signed the account that I sent to M. de la Peyronie; Messrs. Dufour & Henri, surgeons working at the Hôpital de Douay; & M. Delaire, Surgeon-aide Major of the army, who visited the wounded to report on them to M. Andouillé, Surgeon-Major.

M. Réad, Chirurgien major de l'Hôpital de Valenciennes, de qui nous avons emprunté les trois premières Observations, assure en avoir trente de plaies compliquées de fracas d'os, à la vérité moins graves que les trois premières, presque toutes guéries sans amputation, quoique, selon les regles ordinaires, la plûpart eussent exigé cette opération sur le champ. De neuf cens blessés qui furent transportés aux Hôpitaux de Valenciennes après la bataille de Fontenoi, le nombre des amputés s'est réduit à onze, dont neuf ont été guéris parfaitement quoiqu'amputés du dixième au quinzième jour de la blessure, & à proportion du changement qui survenoit dans les signes extérieurs de la partie lésée, & que les malades avoient été mieux préparés.

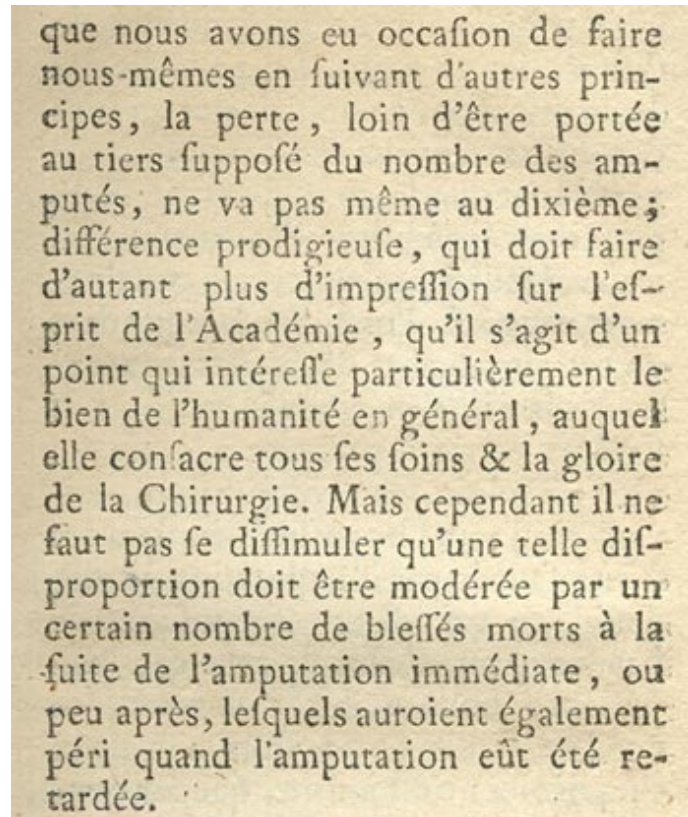
Voilà donc une méthode dont tout concoure à confirmer le succès; des membres sauvés, qui eussent été extirpés par les principes ordinaires, & qui auroient mis les sujets dans un plus grand danger de perdre la vie; & un plus grand nombre d'amputations heureuses, puisque le nombre de celles qui réussissent par le système ordinaire, est au plus par quelques-uns évalué au tiers, (ce qui est bien contraire aux Observations que nous eumes occasion de faire après la bataille de Fontenoi, où le succès d'environ trois cens amputations fut réduit à trente ou quarante,) tandis que si l'on rassemble seulement celles de M. Réad, & celles

Translation

M. Réad, Surgeon-major at the Hôpital de Valenciennes, from whom we took the first three observations [of a list set out on previous pages], assures us that he has thirty wounds complicated by bony fractures, [though] these are, in fact, less grave than the first three because almost all of them were cured without amputation, although, if the ordinary rules had been followed, most of them would have required immediate amputation. Of nine hundred wounded who were taken to the Hospitals of Valenciennes after the battle of Fontenoy, the number of amputations was reduced to eleven; nine of these were completely cured though their amputations were carried out between the tenth and fifteenth day after wounding, and [only] in response to the external signs in the parts affected and because the patients were better prepared.

This, then, is a method whose success is confirmed by everything. [There were] mutilated limbs [which were,

presumably, saved] which would have been extirpated according to the usual procedure and would have put the patients into greater danger of losing their life; and [there were] a greater number of happy outcomes from amputations; the number of these which are successful under the ordinary system is estimated by some people to be, at most, one third but this is contradicted by the observations which we were able to make after the battle of Fontenoy where the number of successes in about three hundred amputations was merely thirty or forty. On the other hand, if we put together just the cases of M. Réad and those



que nous avons eu occasion de faire nous-mêmes en suivant d'autres principes, la perte, loin d'être portée au tiers supposé du nombre des amputés, ne va pas même au dixième; différence prodigieuse, qui doit faire d'autant plus d'impression sur l'esprit de l'Académie, qu'il s'agit d'un point qui intéresse particulièrement le bien de l'humanité en général, auquel elle consacre tous ses soins & la gloire de la Chirurgie. Mais cependant il ne faut pas se dissimuler qu'une telle disproportion doit être modérée par un certain nombre de blessés morts à la suite de l'amputation immédiate, ou peu après, lesquels auroient également péri quand l'amputation eût été retardée.

Translation

that we ourselves were able to make using the other principles [i.e. the delayed operation], the loss, [i.e. deaths] far from reaching the expected one third of the number of amputees, does not even reach one tenth. This is a prodigious difference which must make a greater impression on the feelings of the Académie since it is a matter that concerns that good of humanity in general to which is consecrated all the care and glory of Surgery. For all that, one must not hide the fact that such a great difference in proportion [of deaths] must be moderated by a certain number of patients who died following immediate amputation, or a little afterwards, who would also have perished had the amputation been delayed.

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