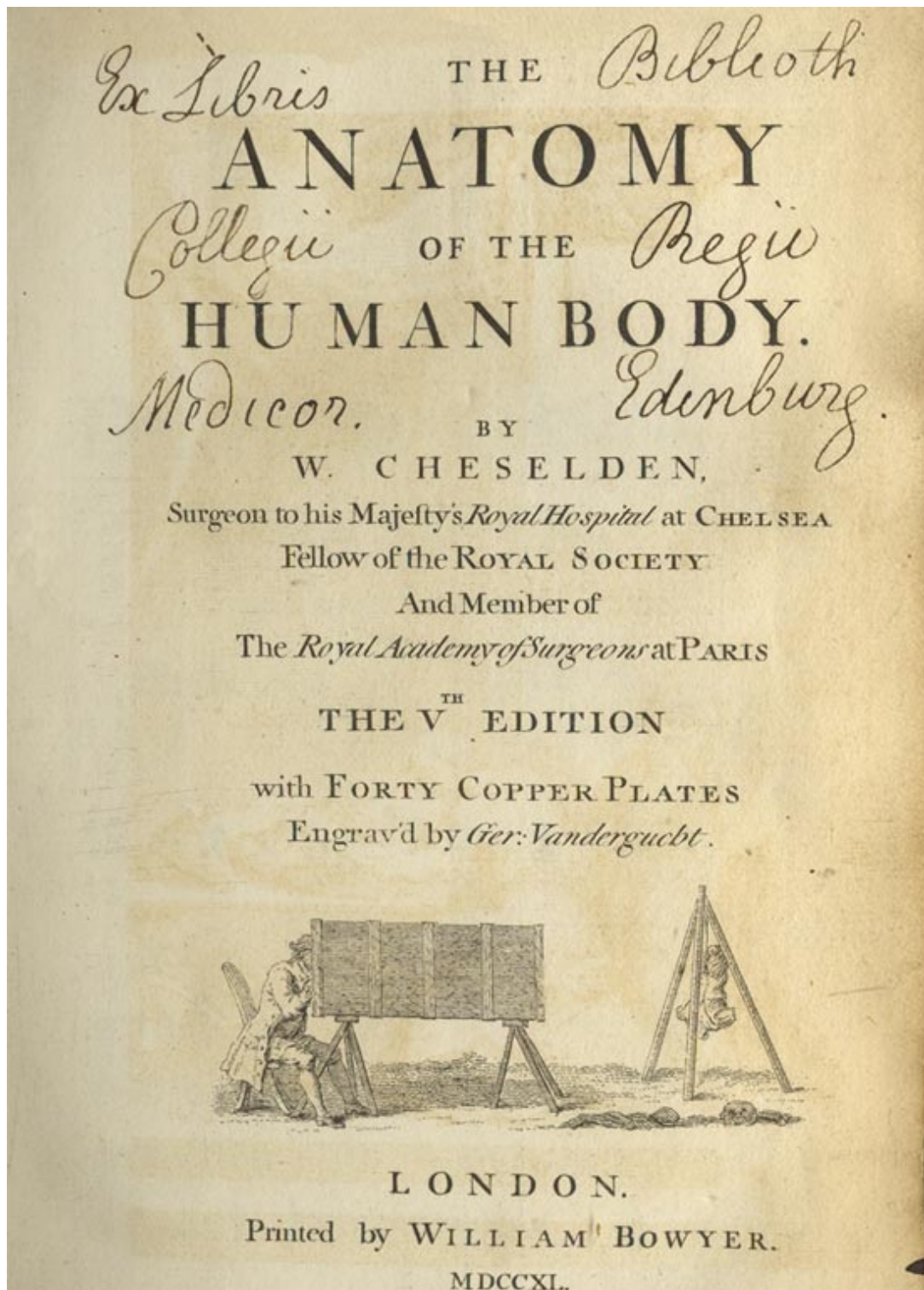


[Cheselden W \(1740\)](#). The anatomy of the human body. 5th edition. London: William Bowyer.

## Title pages





Key passages

### 332 CUTTING FOR THE STONE.

WHAT success I have had in my private practice I have kept no account of, because I had no intention to publish it, that not being sufficiently witnessed. Publickly in St. Thomas's hospital I have cut two-hundred and thirteen; of the first fifty, only three died; of the second fifty, three; of the third fifty, eight; and of the last sixty-three, six. Several of these patients had the small pox during their cure, some of which died, but I think not more in proportion than what usually die of that distemper; these are not reckon'd among those who died of the operation. The reason why so few died in the two first fifties was, at that time few very bad cases offer'd; in the third, the operation being in high request, even the most aged and most miserable cases expected to be sav'd by it; besides, at that time, I made the operation lower

### CUTTING FOR THE STONE. 333

lower in hopes of improving it, but found I was mistaken. But what is of most consequence to be known is the ages of those who recovered, and those who died. Of these, under ten years of age one hundred and five were cut, three died; between ten and twenty, sixty-two cut, four died; twenty and thirty, twelve cut, three died; thirty and forty, ten cut, two died; forty and fifty, ten cut, two died; fifty and sixty, seven cut, four died; sixty and seventy, five cut, one died; between seventy and eighty, two cut, one died. Of those who recovered the three biggest stones were  $\frac{3}{4}$  xii, x  $\frac{4}{5}$ , and viii, and the greatest number of stones in any one person was thirty-three. One of the three that died out of the hundred and five, was very ill with a whooping cough; another bled to death by an artery into the bladder, it being very hot weather at that time: But this accident taught me afterwards whenever a vessel bled that I could not find, to dilate the wound with a knife, till I could see it. Now if JACQUES or others who of late have been said to have performed this operation, whether by design or chance, did not take care to secure the blood-vessels, which as yet has not been supposed, whatever their dexterity in operating might be, their success at least can be no secret, for many of their children and most of their men patients must have bled to death. If I have any reputation in this way, I have

334 PHARMACOPOEIA CHIRURGICA.

I have earn'd it dearly, for no one ever endured more anxiety and sickness before an operation, yet from the time I began to operate, all uneasiness ceased; and if I have had better success than some others, I do not impute it to more knowledge, but to the happiness of a mind that was never ruffled or disconcerted, and a hand that never trembled during any operation.

[Home](#)

[Contents](#)