CASE

OF

DISEASED APPENDIX VERMIFORMIS,

BY JOHN PARKINSON, ESQ. SURGEON.

COMMUNICATED

BY JAMES PARKINSON, ESQ.

Read January 21, 1812.

A preparation of diseased appendix vermiformis in my possession, was removed from a boy about five years of age, who died under the following circumstances.

He had been observed for some time to decline in health, but made no particular complaint until two days before his death, when he was suddenly seized with vomiting, and great prostration of strength. The abdomen became very tumid and painful upon being pressed: his countenance pale and sunken, and his pulse hardly perceptible. Death, preceded by extreme restlessness and delirium, took place within twenty-four hours.

Upon examination, the whole surface of the peritoneum was found inflamed, and covered with a
thin coat of coagulable lymph; and slight adhesion
had taken place between the peritoneum covering
the viscera, and the parietes of the abdomen. The viscera, independent of the inflammation of
their peritoneal covering, appeared in a perfectly
healthy state, excepting the appendix vermiformis
of the cæcum. No diseased appearance was seen
in this part near to the cæcum; but about an
inch of its extremity was considerably enlarged
and thickened, its internal surface ulcerated, and
an opening from ulceration, which would have
admitted a crow-quill, was found at the commence-
ment of the diseased part, about the middle of the
appendix, through which it appeared that a thin,
dark-coloured, and highly fetid fluid, had escaped
into the cavity of the abdomen.

Upon opening the appendix, a piece of hardened
faeces was found impacted in that part of it
which lay between the opening, and that portion
of the appendix, which was not evidently marked
by disease.