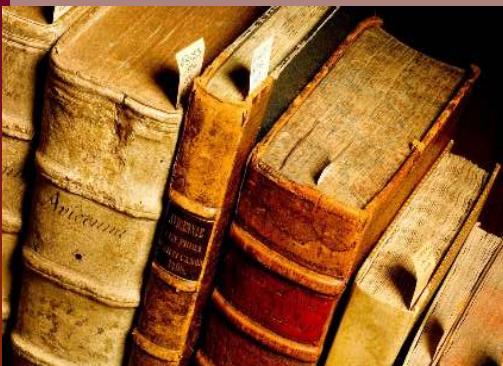
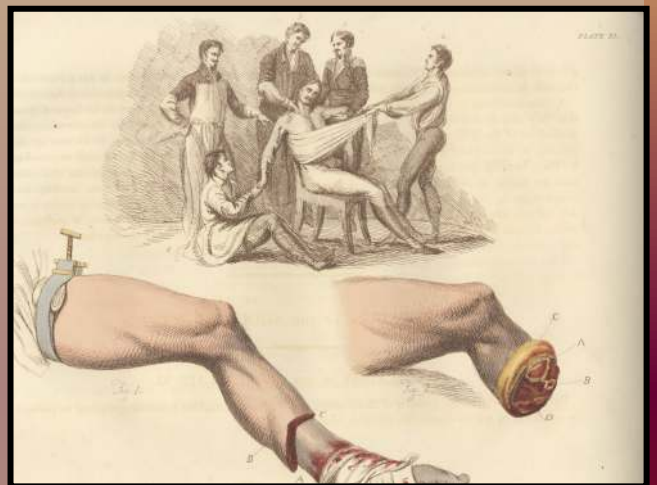


Notes from the
John Martin Rare Book Room
September 2014

Sir CHARLES BELL (1774-1842). Illustrations of the great operations of surgery: trepan, hernia, amputation, aneurism, and lithotomy. London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, 1821.

Sir Charles Bell, a Scottish surgeon and anatomist, was one of the greatest scientists in medical history. Educated at the University of Edinburgh, he spent the major part of his professional career in London before returning to his alma mater as professor of surgery for the last few years of his life. Among his many contributions to medical science may be included his role in establishing the motor and sensory pathways of the spinal nerves. All his discoveries were, in his own phrase, "deductions from anatomy." In addition to his preeminence as an anatomist, physiologist, neurologist, and surgeon, Bell was also an accomplished artist. All the drawings for the illustrations in his books were made by him, and they stand unrivaled for their facility, elegance, and accuracy. His book "A system of dissections" represented Bell's first independent publication as an author and appeared when he was twenty-four. The first volume of this book covers dissection of the abdomen, thorax, pelvis, thigh, and leg. Volume II covers dissection of the arm, neck, face, and nerves of the viscera, brain, and eye. The surgical techniques herein described are surprisingly modern. The illustrations, drawn by the author, are mostly colored and are exceptionally graphic and instructive.



Hardin Library for the Health Sciences
Room 446
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
319/335-9154
donna-hirst@uiowa.edu
<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/rbr/>

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF IOWA
LIBRARIES