he was led in this analysis, was not without its effect in somewhat mitigating his attachment to the peculiar views of the sect amongst whom he had been born. He had ac­quired a great facility in writing Latin. He composed Greek verses which stood the test of the criticism of thc first scholars of the day, and read a good deal of the higher mathematics. His amusements were the studies of botany and zoology, and to entomology in particular he at that time gave great attention....During the whole term of these five years, he never was seen by any one, on any occasion, to be ruffled in his temper. Whatever he determined on, he did. He had little faith in any peculiar aptitude being implanted by nature for any given pursuits. His favourite maxim was, that whatever one man had done, another might do ; that the original difference between human intellects was much less than it was generally supposed to be ; that strenuous and persevering attention would accomplish al­most any thing ; and at this season, in the confidence of youth and consciousness of his own powers, he considered nothing which had been compassed by others beyond his reach to achieve, nor was there any thing which he thought worthy to be attempted, which he was not resolved to master.”

It was the wish of Dr Brockelsby that he should devote himself to the medical profession ; and having prepared himself by previous reading, he attended Dr Higgins’s lec­tures on chemistry during the winters of 1790 and 1791. He began to perform some simple experiments ; but at no period of his life was he much disposed to spend his time, either in devising original experiments, or in repeating those of others. His first appearance as an author is sup­posed to have been in the Monthly Review for 1791, to which he communicated a short note on gum ladanum, with a verbal criticism on Longinus. The criticism, we are informed, was admitted by Dr Burney to be correct. The critic had only attained the age of eighteen. To­wards the close of 1792, he took lodgings at Westminster, where he resided about two years, and pursued his medical studies. He attended the lectures of Baillie and Cruik- shank in the Hunterian school of anatomy ; and during that period was among the most diligent of the pupils who frequented St Bartholomew’s Hospital. He likewise attended courses of lectures on the practice of physic by Dr Crichton and Dr Latham, on midwifery by Dr Clarke and Dr Osborn, and on botany by Sir James Ed­ward Smith.

In 1793 he varied his pursuits by making a tour in the west of England, chiefly with the view of studying the mineralogy of Cornwall. About this period he had been introduced to the duke of Richmond, to whom his uncle was well known ; and the duke, then master-general of the ordnance, offered to retain him as his private secretary. Such an appointment might have conducted a young man of his talents to much higher preferment, but he was re­luctant to quit the onward path of science. Mr Burke and Mr Windham, to whom he had likewise been introduced by Dr Brockelsby, recommended the plan of entering him­self at Cambridge, as a preparation for the study of the law. Burke, it has been stated, “ was so greatly struck with the reach of his talents and the extent of his acquirements, more particularly by his great and accurate knowledge of the Greek language, that Dr Young may be considered as in no small degree indebted to the good offices of that emi­nent statesman, for the extent of interest which his uncle took from this period in his future settlement in life.” Ad­hering to his previous choice of the medical profession, he proceeded to Edinburgh in the autumn of 1794, and there attended the lectures of Black, Monro, and Gregory. He cultivated the acquaintance of the Greek professor, Mr Dalzel, to whom he communicated some notes, as well as a Greek epigram, which were inserted in the second vo­lume of the Collectanea Græca. “ He pursued every branch of study in that university with his accustomed intensity, but made the physical sciences more peculiarly the objects of his research. He now separated himself from the society of Quakers ; and amidst his medical, scientific, and classical labours, he determined on cultivating some of those arts in which he considered that his early education had left him deficient. But every thing, be its nature what it might, was with him a science ; whatever he followed, he followed scientifically. He was extremely fond of music, and of the science of music he rendered himself a master. He had at all times great personal activity, and in youth he delighted in its exercise. But perhaps it may provoke a smile, though too characteristic an anecdote to omit, that in instructing himself in the figure of a minuet, he made it the subject of a mathematical diagram.”

Towards the close of the year 1795, he removed to the university of Göttingen. Here he attended lectures on civil and natural history, as well as on different branches of medical science. Of the very extensive and well-arranged library belonging to that university, he did not fail to make an assiduous use. As he was entirely exempted from those dissipations into which so many young men fall, he had suf­ficient leisure for recreation as well as study ; and at Göt­tingen, as well as at Edinburgh, he diversified his occupa­tions by engaging in various bodily exercises. “ He took lessons in horsemanship, in which he always had great pleasure, and practised under various masters all sorts of feats of personal agility, in which he excelled to an extra­ordinary degree.” On the 10th of July 1796 he took the degree of Μ. D. His inaugural dissertation was printed under the title, “ De Corporis Humani Viribus con­servatricibus Dissertatio.” Gotting. 1796, 8vo. He easily obtained a dispensation from the oath which, in this and other German universities, is very absurdly ten­dered to candidates, that they will not take the same degree in any other university. Having visited Dresden and Berlin, he now directed his course to England. As he could not be admitted to immediate practice as a licentiate of the College of Physicians, he entered himself as a fellow- commoner of Emanuel College, Cambridge. Dr Farmer, the master, was his uncle’s intimate friend. Here he re­sided three years, and afterwards kept his terms, so as in due time to take his degrees in physic. He did not attend any of the public lectures ; nor is it to be supposed that a graduate who had studied at Edinburgh and Göttingen could derive much advantage from an elementary course a Cambridge.

Dr Brockelsby died in the month of December 1797, having bequeathed the larger part of his fortune to his nephew Mr Beeby. The remainder, including his house, library, and pictures, fell to the share of his grand-nephew Dr Young. At the age of twenty-four, he was thus placed in a state of comfortable independence ; and after fie had completed his necessary residence at college, he establish­ed himself in Welbeck-street, and commenced the practice of physic. In 1802 his reputation as a man of science procured him the appointment of professor of natural phi­losophy in the Royal Institution, where for two years he was associated with Davy. Of the Journals of the Royal Institution, the first volume and a part of the second were edited and chiefly written by Young. During this year he published “ A Syllabus of a Course of Lectures on Natu­ral and Experimental Philosophy,” containing mathemati­cal demonstrations of the most important theorems in me­chanics and optics. Here he announced his great dis­covery of the general law of the interference of light ; that “ wherever two portions of the same light arrive at the eye by different routes, either exactly or very nearly in the same direction, the light becomes most intense when the difference of the routes is any multiple of a certain length, and least intense in the intermediate state of the interfering portions ; and this length is different for light of different