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# MEDICAL ECONOMY

DURING THE

## MIDDLE AGES:

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN MORALS,  
FROM THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE  
CLOSE OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

BY  
GEORGE F. FORT,

AUTHOR OF THE  
"EARLY HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF FREEMASONRY."



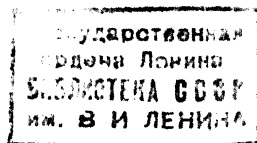
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## P R E F A C E.

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IN its general purpose the object of the treatise now published under the preceding title may be stated to be an historical inquiry into the practical effect upon social life throughout the period traversed, of that singular credence which involved preternatural agencies. Perhaps no portion of society of the Middle Ages reveals greater susceptibility to these curious influences than that appertaining to the preservation and restoration of bodily vigor.

It is especially the tendency of this disquisition to elucidate, so far as was deemed commensurate with the design of the work, the more significant relationship existing—as understood in the period designated—between supernal or angelic puissance and the human or physical constitution. Conclusions reached and indications drawn within the limits of the subject thus marked, will, it is believed, be found fully substantiated by reference to marginal annotations.

The labor required to collect, investigate, and suitably arrange indispensable material, will doubtless suggest itself to the reader. This toil was largely increased on account of the author's profession—to the bar—oftentimes necessitating his vigilant attention elsewhere; although the greater part of the authorities quoted, constituting an essential portion of his private collection, to some extent modified the more onerous perplexities of the task. In addition to these, through the courtesy of the officials of the British Museum, the writer was enabled to pursue his researches among the accumulations in that institution.

The scope of the work includes the narration of medical art under the Roman Emperors to Galen's time, and the modifying

influences of the Alexandrine Schools in producing a regular system of magic cures. The progress of this interesting phenomenon, as a moralistic episode of the Middle Ages, concurrent with ancient medical text-books in the cloisters, and the gradual development of the science, aided by Arabic erudition in the Italian Universities, together with alchemy and astrology, are also subjected to careful scrutiny. Among other features of this history are treatises on the curative power of gems, incantations, etc., an elaboration of the condition and attempts to reform abandoned women at the several epochs, and curious facts touching the status of physicians of both sexes.

In the several appendices subjoined will be found original and ancient records used in the preparation of the text, and reproduced in full for more extended use. A complete analytical and subjective index concludes the work, in order to facilitate its utility.

GEORGE F. FORT.

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