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92 MEDICAL

LECTURES AND ESSAYS

BY

GEORGE JOHNSON, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.

FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON; ASSOCIATE FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
OF PHILADELPHIA; EMENTUS PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE AND
CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL

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TO

SIR JOSEPH LISTER, BART.

M.B. LOND.; M.D. (HONORIS CAUSA), DUBLIN; LL.D. EDIN., GLASG., AND CANTAB.;
D.C.L. OXON.; F.R.S. LOND. AND EDIN.; PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL SURGERY IN
KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON; SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO THE QUEEN;
ETC., ETC.,

WHO BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ANTISEPTIC PRINCIPLE
AND METHODS INTO THE PRACTICE OF SURGERY

HAS CONFERRED AN INCALCULABLE BENEFIT UPON MANKIND,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED

BY HIS FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE,

THE AUTHOR

PREFACE.

THIS selection of medical lectures and essays, while containing some recently written chapters and sections, is, for the most part a reprint of papers which have been published in various forms and at different times, during the last thirty years or more. In bringing together and carefully revising some of my published writings relating to subjects which I have been led to investigate with more than ordinary care and diligence, my main object has been to communicate to the profession my latest and most matured opinions on such interesting and much debated questions as, for instance, the pathology and treatment of cholera and of the various forms of Bright's disease of the kidneys, the relation of membranous croup to diphtheria, the proximate cause of epileptiform convulsions, &c.

I am not without the hope of convincing every unprejudiced reader that the key to the solution of some of the most important pathological problems is to be found in a correct appreciation of the power possessed by the muscular-walled arterioles to regulate and, under certain conditions, to entirely arrest the circulation of the blood. That a disregard or misinterpretation of the now well-established physiological functions of these powerful agents in controlling the movement and distribution of the blood has been the source of grave pathological errors has, it is believed, been conclusively proved in the following pages.

My endeavour to demonstrate the correlation of various

pathological phenomena has led to the repetition of some statements of fact and doctrine—a repetition which is neither undesigned nor, it is hoped, without practical advantage.

I have to express my especial obligation to two friends who have rendered me much assistance in the preparation of this work. To my colleague Dr. Tirard I am indebted, not only for the labour of reading and correcting the proof-sheets, but also for many valuable suggestions; and another friend, who prefers to remain anonymous, has done me and my readers the great service of preparing the very full and complete index.

Since two of the authors whom I have had frequent occasion to quote have received from Her Majesty the well-deserved honour of knighthood while these pages were passing through the press, it may be well, though perhaps scarcely necessary, to mention that Dr. Garrod and Mr. John Simon, who are quoted in the earlier chapters, are identical with Sir Alfred B. Garrod and Sir John Simon, whose names appear later.

11 SAVILE Row: *September, 1887.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS ON MEDICAL WORK AND	
MEDICAL DUTY.	1
CHAPTER II.	
THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE CIRCULATION.	
The Structure of the Arteries, Arterioles, and Capillaries	14
The Vaso-motor Nervous System	18
The Physiology of the Circulation—Influence of the Heart, the Large Elastic Arteries, and the Muscular Arterioles	19
The Phenomena of Asphyxia or Apnœa illustrated by Post-mortem Appearances and by Experiments	21
Nitrous Oxide Anæsthesia: the Symptoms and their Physiological Explanation	33
CHAPTER III.	
ON CERTAIN PHYSICAL PHENOMENA CONNECTED WITH THE CIRCULATION, RESPIRATION, SECRETION, AND ABSORPTION.	
Facts proving rapidity of Absorption and Elimination	36
Effect of Overfulness and of Depletion of Blood-vessels—Venesection lowers the Density of the Blood	39
Action of a Hydragogue in removing Dropsy—Mere Diarrhœa does not thicken the Blood	40
Influence of Venous Engorgement in causing Blood-thickening	42
Explanation of the Blood-thickening during the Collapse Stage of Cholera	43
CHAPTER IV.	
ON SOME RESULTS OF A RETROGRADE ENGORGEMENT OF THE BLOOD-VESSELS.	
The Lung contains two sets of Blood-vessels: Pulmonary for Respiration, Bronchial for the Nutrition of the Lung and Pleura	46
State of Pulmonary and Bronchial Vessels in the Collapse Stage of Cholera	47
Comparison of Spasmodic Asthma with Spasmodic Cholera, Acute and Chronic Apnœa	48