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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

*By the same Author.*

- LECTURES ON BRIGHT'S DISEASE. 5s.  
ON ALBUMEN AND SUGAR-TESTING. 2s.  
NOTES ON CHOLERA. 3s. 6d.  
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A DEFENCE OF HARVEY. 2s.



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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.

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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.*

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