OUTLINES OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ELECTRICITY, AND SHORT NOTICES OF THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES IN WHICH ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN EMPLOYED SUCCESSFULLY

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HUGH CAMPBELL

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OUTLINES

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AND SHORT NOTICES OF THE

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BY

HUGH CAMPBELL, M.D.



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PREFACE.

THE object of these outlines is to present to the Profession a précis of the leading facts in Electro-Physics and Electro-Physiology on which the theory and practice of Electro-Therapeutics are founded.

The employment of electricity in medicine and surgery has now reached that point of recognition by the profession, when no medical man can be considered a master of his art who remains in ignorance of its principles.

To many actively engaged in practice, who cannot find leisure sufficient to master a new study in all its details, it is hoped these outlines will furnish a safe and ready guide to the scientific employment of this potent agent.

To others more at leisure it will, I trust, be the means of directing their attention to a most interesting and important study. For their benefit I append, on the last page, a list of the principal authors consulted by me in the preparation of this work, all of whom may be read with advantage, but particularly the last, who for all practical purposes exhausts our present knowledge of the subject.

HUGH CAMPBELL.

Queen Anne Street,
 Cavendish Square.

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CONTENTS.

PART I.

												FAGE
Сна	P. I.	MAGNE	TISM AND	ELEC	FRI	CIT	¥.					1
22	II.	STATIC	AND CURE	ENT	Ei	.icc1	RIC	ITT		×0	600	6
32	III.		L ELECTRIC							925 936	/05	24
. "	IV.		o-Physiol					/C)	::: ::2	22	935 9940	30
	V.	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	L EFFECTS				.33.	·	· ·	411	70	• •
37	1.5		AN BODY,									
			RAPEUTICAL									
			C AND FAI									45
	***											45
22	٧1.		al, Local,									
	V2222		ON									53
			o-Diagnos									61
"	VIII.	ELECTR	OLYSIS AND	THE	G	LV,	ANI	c C	AU'	rr	Y,	
		&c.			ß,			•		*		65
22	IX.	TERMS	EMPLOYED) IN	8 8	EL	CTI	10-I	BY	SIC	3,	
		ELEC	тво - Рич	TOLOG	ĢΥ,	A	ND	E	LE	CTR	0-	
	833	THE	RAPEUTICS		3		٠		÷	्		73
			-									
		8.	PART	11								
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			ADVANTAG									
				Service of		E.B	ALA	JNE	. 0	H .	AS	=0
A	N YDJÛ	NUT TO	OTHER REM	EDIE	5	•	٠.	*:	*	٠	٠	79
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OUTLINES

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ELECTRICITY.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY.

THE presence of a subtle, imponderable fluid Magnetism pervading everything in nature, and influencing and electricity more or less all its operations, is made manifest fluid. to us by phenomena which, while they are clearly traceable to one ultimate cause, vary sufficiently to be classed under two distinct heads, to which the names of Magnetism and Electricity are given.

What the ultimate composition of this all-Theories of its pervading fluid is, remains an unsolved problem; composition. various theories have been suggested to explain its nature; the one most generally received assumes it to consist of two distinct fluids, each composed of infinitesimal molecules which repel each other, while they attract the molecules of