

**EXTRACTS FROM  
THE DIARY OF A  
LIVING PHYSICIAN**

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Extracts from the Diary of a Living Physician by L. F. C.

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L. F. C.

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LIVING PHYSICIAN.

*Knight*

EXTRACTS

FROM THE DIARY

OF

A LIVING PHYSICIAN.

EDITED BY L. F. C.

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1851.

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1851

## PREFACE.

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It is a happy feature in our social condition, that we recognise the teachings of experience, and gather knowledge and improvement from the inculcations of example.

Every individual is socially bound to contribute to the utmost of his ability towards the common weal, by supplying whatever befalls his experience, calculated for instruction or advantage.

That the members of the medical profession possess opportunities, superior to any other class of the community, for observing human nature in its ambiguous and opposite phases, cannot be questioned.

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Whatever disguise or subterfuge a man may assume, whilst in the enjoyment of health, the hour of sickness and the bed of death generally rend the veil, expose the sophistry, and reveal the individual as he *is*.

Various and diversified are the death-bed scenes to which the practitioner of medicine is introduced, and strangely anomalous become the characteristics of humanity, when observed through the medium of physical suffering.

To introduce the reader to some of the startling truths taught by every-day experience—to inculcate the principles of morality and uprightness—to dignify virtue, and render vice odious, are the anticipations of the Author in submitting the accompanying details to the public eye.

That they contain traits of character unenviable, and derogatory to our common nature, cannot be denied; but inasmuch as the penalties of error inculcate sterner and more imposing precepts than the rewards of goodness, it is to be hoped that, as beacons to the un-



wary, and guardians of the innocent, the examples here displayed may contribute—however humbly—to the advancement of the common good.

It is not necessary for the Editor to announce the circumstances which have rendered his agency requisite, nor to apologise for the *incognito* of the Author. If the "Extracts" should merit the Reader's approbation, and prove worthy of public confidence, it will matter little by whom they were edited.

In selecting from the Author's note-book cases for publication, the Editor has used the utmost circumspection.

Where the feelings of the living could possibly be violated by a reference to the dead, he has studiously avoided narration, and, in every case, has carefully guarded against the shadow of *identity*.

Thus far the following sketches of character are devoid of some of the peculiarities which frequently attach to similar writings, and may be received as faithful pictures of humanity—

the originals of which are to be met with in the daily intercourse of life, under various circumstances, and different names—and not as essays at satire, or relations of individuals.

*December, 1850.*

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