

**ON SPERMATORRHOEA:
ITS
PATHOLOGY, RESULTS,
AND COMPLICATIONS**

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On Spermatorrhœa: Its Pathology, Results, and Complications by J. L. Milton

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SPERMATORRHŒA:

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ON
SPERMATORRHŒA:

ITS
PATHOLOGY, RESULTS, AND COMPLICATIONS.

BY
J. L. MILTON,
SURGEON TO ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

*Enlarged and Reprinted from the original Papers published in the LANCET
for 1852, and the MEDICAL CIRCULAR for 1858.*

TENTH EDITION.



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P R E F A C E.

EVERY effort has been made to render this edition as complete as the nature of the subject admitted. I am not aware that any attainable sources of information have been neglected. It is, however, only right to say that, although numerous references have been made to the writings of others, the bulk of the work is, after all, essentially clinical, the fruit of observation rather than of reading.

Even since the appearance of the last edition I have again been told, what I have been told before, that the description I had given of the effects produced by the disease was overdrawn. My answer is very simple. I have taken my accounts from the statements made by patients, not from the opinions of compilers. I have spoken of symptoms and results as I found them, and as any one may find them who chooses to seek for them. Whether a description from Nature agrees or not with the doctrines taught in schools, and laid down in text-books, is a matter which does not concern me, and upon which I accordingly forbear to enter.

It has been said that Spermatorrhoea is a mere symptom, a result of morbid imagination which ought not to be ranked as a disease. With all deference I submit that the arguments in favour of spermatorrhoea being a disease are unanswerable. Even were it merely a symptom I should consider that it merits all the attention my readers can give it. One of the best practitioners of modern days, Sir Benjamin Brodie, tells us

that the discrepancies between the systems of pathologists and the experience of surgeons would be avoided "if writers would sometimes condescend to treat of symptoms rather than diseases;" and he is only one of many who, in the evening of life, warned by the errors and misery they have seen result from a blind adherence to systems and fashions, have arrived at the conviction that symptoms, which are eternal in their nature and as indestructible as the qualities of matter, belong to those little things which, after all, chiefly make up the great business of life, and which are of far more moment than any theory or system—things of sand, heaped up by one flood only to be scattered by another.

Virtually, the battle of Spermatorrhœa has been fought and won. When we see its importance openly recognized by such men as Curling, Erichsen, and Humphry, we may feel sure that it can never again be blotted out from the curriculum of surgical teaching.

SION HOUSE,
KING'S ROAD, S.W.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DISEASE	1
Present State of Professional Opinion on the Subject, 8.	

CHAPTER II.

PATHOLOGY, RESULTS, AND COMPLICATIONS OF SPERMATORRHOEA	14
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Classification of Spermatorrhoea, 14 ; Divisions, 15 ; Nocturnal Emissions, 15 ; Diurnal Emissions, 20 ; Pathology of Spermatorrhoea, 22 ; Results, 27 ; Prognosis, 30 ; Complications, 34 ; (1) Vesicular Gleet, 34 ; (2) Imperceptible Passage of Semen, 42 ; (3) Cystitis (Cystorrhoea), 43 ; (4) Affections of Prostate Gland, 44 ; (5) Urethral Mucous Gleet, 44 ; (6) Irritable Urethra, 46 ; (7) Stricture, 46 ; (8) Irritable Foreskin, 46 ; (9) Coldness of Penis and Scrotum, 46 ; (10) Varicocele, 46 ; (11) Urinary Deposits, 47 ; (12) Spermatozoa in the Urine, 51 ; State of Semen in Disease, 53.

CHAPTER III.

PATHOLOGY OF IMPOTENCE	55
Mode in which Impotence occurs, 66 ; Prognosis, 67.	