

**THE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT  
OF CALCULOUS  
DISEASE AND THE USE  
OF SOLVENT REMEDIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649348060

The preventive treatment of calculous disease and the use of solvent remedies by Henry Thompson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**HENRY THOMPSON**

**THE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT  
OF CALCULOUS  
DISEASE AND THE USE  
OF SOLVENT REMEDIES**



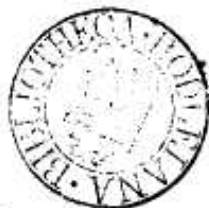
THE  
PREVENTIVE TREATMENT  
OF  
CALCULOUS DISEASE  
AND  
THE USE OF SOLVENT REMEDIES

THE  
PREVENTIVE TREATMENT  
OF  
CALCULOUS DISEASE  
AND  
THE USE OF SOLVENT REMEDIES

BY

SIR HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S.

SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO H.M. THE KING OF THE BELGIANS,  
HONORARY PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL SURGERY TO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL



*SECOND EDITION*

LONDON  
J. & A. CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET  
1876

## PREFACE.

---

I HAVE lately received so many communications in the form of inquiry and of suggestion, in relation to the two subjects named in the title, that I have decided on publishing the following Lectures, given at University College Hospital, as the simplest mode of furnishing a brief, but tolerably complete, reply in the present state of our knowledge.

35, WIMPOLE STREET,  
*April, 1873.*

THE  
PREVENTIVE TREATMENT  
OF  
CALCULOUS DISEASE.

---

LECTURE I.

EARLY HISTORY OF CALCULOUS DISEASE, AND  
THE TREATMENT BEST ADAPTED FOR ITS  
PREVENTION.

GENTLEMEN,—We have recently studied together and discussed very fully the various operations which are practised for the removal of stone from the bladder, and you have had the opportunity of seeing them performed many times, not less than eleven cases having passed through my wards during the last few weeks, each one with a successful result.

But, satisfactory as this is, it suggests very strongly to my mind that there remains an



important question for us to consider ; as important, indeed, as any of the preceding subjects, and one which must naturally arise in all thinking minds. It is this : Is there not a period anterior to the stage of the malady already examined—a time at which we might prevent the formation of stone in the bladder, and so get rid of the necessity for removing it ? Admirable as the results of operative means have been—perfect (one may almost say) as they have become, at all events so far as regards the crushing operation—great as is the triumph which surgery has achieved in removing stone from the bladder—I take it there are very few men who would desire, if they could help it, to exhibit that triumph in their own persons ; and who would not be infinitely better pleased if we could succeed in preventing the formation of stone, instead of only achieving its removal, however satisfactorily the operation for that purpose might be performed. This, then, leads me to the consideration of an important question,—Can we do anything to prevent the formation of stone

in the urinary passages? It is, in fact, the earliest stage of this malady that will be the subject of our lecture to-day.

I commence by saying that I think a great deal may be done. But at the outset of the inquiry we naturally ask, What is the kind of stone (for there are several kinds) the formation of which we may hope to do most in preventing? All calculi are either of local or of constitutional origin. By "local," I mean formed by disease in the bladder itself, and not depending upon any constitutional conditions; by "constitutional," I mean formed by some vicious action, some error of assimilation inherent in the system. Now, the large majority of stones are of constitutional, and not of local origin. When they are local, you know that we cannot prevent their formation except by mechanical means. Calculous matter, the elements of which are produced in the bladder, may be washed out, or be broken or dissolved and then washed out. But when stones are of constitutional origin—and we are going to refer entirely to these to-day—

## 10 EARLY HISTORY OF CALCULUS.

their elements are separated from the blood, and no mechanical mode of preventing their production can by any possibility be available.

Now, from observation, we know that nineteen out of twenty of such stones have uric acid for their basis, the remaining one in twenty being oxalate of lime;\* and, less commonly still, there are phosphatic stones which are of constitutional origin also. Therefore, practically, to all intents and purposes, the problem before us is contained in the question:—How may we best prevent the formation of uric-acid calculus?

Let us examine the early history of a case of persisting uric-acid deposit. First of all, let me say, going back to the root of the matter, that it is generally more or less hereditary. As an illustration on the spot let me recall the man we have just seen with uric-acid calculus in the ward, of whom we learned that his

---

\* The deposits of oxalate of lime and of uric acid so often replace each other that the consideration of the latter becomes practically generally sufficient for our purpose.