

**REVELATIONS ON
CHOLERA; OR, ITS
CAUSES AND CURE**

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SAMUEL DICKSON

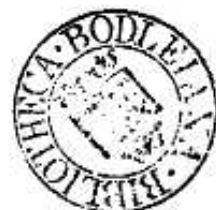
**REVELATIONS ON
CHOLERA; OR, ITS
CAUSES AND CURE**

REVELATIONS
ON
C H O L E R A ;
OR,
ITS CAUSES AND CURE.

By SAMUEL DICKSON, M.D.,

FORMERLY A MEDICAL OFFICER ON THE STAFF IN INDIA.

AUTHOR OF THE FALLACIES OF THE FACULTY
THE UNITY OF DISEASE ; DISEASES OF INDIA ;
AND FOUNDER OF THE CHRONO-THERMAL
SYSTEM OF MEDICINE.



LONDON:
CHARLES GILPIN, 5, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT.

1848.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR CHARLES GILPIN,
BISHOPSGATE STREET.

INTRODUCTION.

CHRONO-THERMALISM.—ITS DOCTRINE OF HEALTH,
DISEASE, RESTORATION, AND REMEDIES.

Dr. Dickson's work called "THE FALLACIES OF THE FACULTY, explaining the Chrono-thermal system of medicine, and proving the so called science of medicine, as taught in the schools, and practised on the public, to be little better than a random network of guesses, has passed through five editions in this country, as many in the United States of America, and has been translated into French, German and Swedish. The book and the author have been alternately abused, plagiarised and misrepresented,* and the system itself scouted as

* The *Report from the Select Committee on MEDICAL REGISTRATION*, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, 16th July, 1847, contains the following, among other "evidence:"—

Veneris 18o die Junii, 1847.

"THE RIGHT HONOURABLE T. B. MACAULAY in the Chair.

"EDWARD JAMES SEYMOUR, M.D., called in and examined—

"1359. Are you one of the *Censors* of the College?—I have been Senior Censor and Junior Censor.

"1360. Are you not aware that many persons are calling themselves physicians, and are practising as physicians.

quackery, and without acknowledgment adopted and practised.

A wide amelioration of the practice of physic has resulted from such unacknowledged use of Dr. Dickson's discoveries, but still the probability is

who have *no other* authority for so doing than the diploma of a *foreign university* !—I know of no such persons but the homœopathsists ; and there is a *Chrono-thermal man*, or something of the kind, but I am not personally acquainted with that case."

Not personally acquainted with that case ! Why, then, Dr. Edward James Seymour, did you volunteer your "evidence" upon it ? You did it to sneer down a Medical Reformer. Yes, you deliberately went out of your way to slander a man whose torch of truth had set the old walls of your College in a blaze. You qualified your falsehood, to be sure, with the quibble that you were "*not personally acquainted with that case.*" Turn to the *London Medical Directory*—Dr. Seymour,—that book is doubtless on the table of every College *Censor*—and blush, if blush you can, when you read there the true qualifications of the individual you have been pleased to call "*a chrono-thermal man,*" with no other authority to practice than "*the diploma of a foreign university.*" For the reader's benefit, and Dr. Dickson's justification, we may as well state them here :—

Dickson, Samuel, 28, Bolton Street, Piccadilly, Physician. —*Qualification, M.D., Glasgow, 1833 ; Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 1825 ; formerly a Medical Officer in the British Army ; author of*—1. "*A Treatise on the Diseases of India ;*" 2. "*Fallacy of the Art of Physic as taught in the Schools ;*" 3. "*Unity of Disease ;*" 4. "*Fallacies of the Faculty, with the Principles of the Chrono-thermal System of Medicine ;*" contributor to the "*Lancet*" of a Paper on the Asiatic Cholera, and of various *other Papers to the "Lancet" and "Medical Times."*

that the great majority of people have never heard of Chrono-thermalism, or at best have only an indistinct notion, derived perhaps from their doctors; that it is some new and dangerous quackery, set up at random by some one who has never had a professional education, and who knows nothing of "the ills that flesh is heir to," and all the long list of specifics and remedies so abundantly set forth for them in the pharmacopœias. It is necessary, therefore, to state, that Dr. Dickson was regularly educated in the schools of anatomy as a surgeon, and as regularly took his diploma as a physician,—that he practised both branches of the profession, as an army surgeon, serving on the medical staff in India, and administered for years the usual routine remedies for the usual diseases, with the usual success; and it was precisely this success, with its long continuance of diseases, the fewness and slowness of its complete recoveries, and the number of its deaths, that continually forced upon him the question—*Does medicine as taught in the schools deserve the name of a science?* And, after long and careful observation, he was led to the conclusion, that the teaching of the schools is not a science, that it too often takes the partial results of disease for the disease itself, overlooks the most important phenomena of vitality and mortality, and takes some single result of a drug as a proof of its sovereign efficacy.

There are four classes of books, in view of which any quite unmedical inquirer might find himself utterly puzzled. First, the nosologies, or lists of diseases; second, the pharmacopœias, or lists of remedies; third, the medical directories, or lists of men diplomaed as skilled practitioners of the mysteries of medicine; and fourth, the registered returns of mortality. Let any one look over these returns from week to week, or year to year, either for particular districts, or the whole country, note how large the number of deaths is between the ages of 15 and 60, a period embracing the very flower of youth and vigour of the prime. Turn, then, to the causes of all these deaths, every one of the diseases set down has its description in the nosology, its remedy in the pharmacopœia, and every case had its physician; few of the deaths are set down as sudden, there was time enough for duly-administered remedies to be effectual, and force of life enough, with some little help to have shaken off the disease. With these facts before them, it is the duty of medical men to be somewhat cautious how they arrogate to themselves the true science of healing, and to investigate, immediately it is brought before them, any new theory of disease and remedies; and it is no less the duty of the unprofessional public, to read and learn something for themselves, that in *their own knowledge* they may have some safe-

guard against what often may fairly enough be called the routine quackery of medical attendants. Chrono-thermalism is here, but it is no quackery. Of all systems for the treatment of disease, the chrono-thermal requires the greatest skill and most observant attention on the part of the physician. The name chrono-thermal is made up of two Greek words, which literally mean, time and heat, and is sufficiently expressive of Dr. Dickson's discovery, that all the vital movements in health are periodic, have alternations of certain rates of motion, certain periods of action and rest, certain lives of temperature and nervous energy,—that every disease is a disturbance of the order or rate of the natural or healthful movements, and consequent temperature, and rate of wear and tear of the body,—that every such disturbance or disease is intermittent, having, like ague, its cold or lowest stage, its hot or highest stage, and its stage of rest, in which the vital movements and temperature are the same as in health, or make the nearest approach to it. Whatever amount of disturbance there may be, there is a continual effort amongst the vital forces, to get back to the habitual or healthful alternations and rate of motion and temperature; and when the vital organism is sufficiently strong to resist the disturbance, so that no vital organ is consumed or mortally wounded in the struggle, this bimedatrix nature, or healing