

THE PREVENTION OF VALVULAR DISEASE OF THE HEART

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The Prevention of Valvular Disease of the Heart by Richard Caton

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RICHARD CATON

**THE PREVENTION OF
VALVULAR DISEASE
OF THE HEART**

THE PREVENTION
OF
VALVULAR DISEASE OF THE HEART

A PROPOSAL TO CHECK RHEUMATIC ENDOCARDITIS IN ITS
EARLY STAGE AND THUS PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF PERMANENT ORGANIC DISEASE OF THE VALVES

LANE BY LIBRARY
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WITH SIX ILLUSTRATIONS.



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TO

LORD LISTER,

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

WHOSE WISE APPLICATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC
PRINCIPLES FOR THE LESSENING OF MORTALITY AND
SUFFERING AMONG MANKIND
ARE UNEXAMPLED
IN THE ANNALS OF MEDICINE,
THIS BRIEF TREATISE
IS BY PERMISSION
DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

IT is the desire of the author to state in this volume as clearly and in as few words as he can the results of an enquiry in which he has been engaged for the last nineteen years, as these results appear to him to have some value and interest.

Valvular disease of the heart has always been and still remains one of the opprobria of medicine. It is a serious cause of suffering to mankind, and will probably always continue to be incurable.

The author's object has been to promote the detection of this malady in its early stage; to study the commencing pathological changes in the valves; to investigate the manner in which in a few cases a natural arrest of the disease is brought about; and to seek by artificial means to render this arrest in the early stage usual, rather than exceptional.

Details of the method proposed are given, and the theory on which it is founded is explained.

Brief notes are given of eighty-six cases, successful and unsuccessful, in which the method advocated has been tried.

The Author is indebted to his colleague Dr Hill Abram for important assistance in the pathological part of the enquiry.

August, 1900.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
THE FREQUENCY AND GRAVITY OF VALVULAR DISEASE	1
The causes of endocarditis	3
The possibility of prevention or arrest	4
Professional reluctance to accept new methods	6
Circumstances which led to the enquiry	7

CHAPTER II.

PATHOLOGY OF ENDOCARDITIS	11
Note on the Morbid Histology of Acute Valvulitis, with illustrations, by J. HILL ABRAM, M.D., M.R.C.P.	14

CHAPTER III.

PHYSICAL SIGNS OF ENDOCARDIAL RHEUMATISM	31
Diagnosis of mitral or aortic valvulitis	33

CHAPTER IV.

TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM WITH A VIEW TO THE PREVENTION OF VALVULITIS	35
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CHAPTER V.

METHODS EMPLOYED FOR THE ARREST OF COMMENCING ENDO- CARDITIS	38
Treatment by rest	39
Treatment by stimulation of trophic centres	41
Treatment by administration of absorbents	45