

**PLACENTA, THE ORGANIC
NERVOUS SYSTEM, THE BLOOD,
THE OXYGEN, AND THE ANIMAL
NERVOUS SYSTEM,
PHYSIOLOGICALLY EXAMINED**

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Placenta, the Organic Nervous System, the Blood, the Oxygen, and the Animal Nervous System,
Physiologically Examined by John O'Reilly

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JOHN O'REILLY

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NOTICES.

FIRST EDITION.

"The author of this monograph has rare intellectual faculties."—*San Francisco Medical and Surgical Journal*.

"The work, standing upon its own merits, occupies a high position in the opinion of the most gifted physicians of our day."—*Georgia Medical and Surgical Encyclopedia*.

"Dr. JOHN O'REILLY, whose original researches in Physiology, and whose untiring industry, have heretofore enriched our pages, has furnished for the present month an elaborate article, which cannot fail to awaken professional interest at home and abroad. Let not its length prevent its candid perusal, for he is one of the few men who refuses to think by proxy."—*Amer. Med. Gazette*.

"We regard this as a curious, but able, work; having the rare merit of originality, and clearly showing that the mind which produced it is not an ordinary one."—*Baltimore Journal of Medicine*.

"All through his book, Dr. O'REILLY proves himself a profound anatomist, as well as physiologist; indeed, we might almost say, that to the latter study he has, if possible, devoted himself the more closely. It is, therefore, that we claim for him a careful and thoughtful perusal of his theories, in which he gives the nervous system an importance and prominence not hitherto awarded it.

"Dr. O'REILLY's work will amply repay perusal. It is very ably written, and we have no doubt will attract considerable attention wherever physiology is appreciated."—*Dublin Medical Press*.

From VALENTINE MOTT, Esq., LL.D., M.D., *Ex-President of the Medical Faculty of the University of New York; Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the University of New York, &c., &c.*

MY DEAR DOCTOR—I have read with great pleasure your views of the functions of the Placenta; as far as I can penetrate into this important organ, it appears to me that your views are original and correct.

I congratulate you upon the novelties you have treated us with, not only in relation to this part, but upon the centres and functions of the nerves of organic life.

It appears to me that the more we examine into your views and explanations of the phenomena of organic life, the more we shall have occasion to admire their harmony and originality.

DR. O'REILLY.

Yours truly,
V. MOTT,
1 Gramercy Park, 21st Street.

Copy of a Letter from MARTYN PAINE, Esq., LL.D., M.D., *Professor of Materia Medica in the University of New York; Author of the Institutes of Medicine, &c., &c.*

NEW YORK, January 8, 1859.

JOHN O'REILLY, M.D.:

Dear Sir—I cannot express to you my grateful acknowledgment for the kind manner in which you have referred to me in your able article on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Placenta, as contained in the *American Medical Gazette* of the present month.

I have read that article not only with great interest, but instruction; it is something that will last. What you have said of the intercommunication of nerves between the mother and fetus is a great fundamental fact; it is probably full of physiological import; and although I have been always skeptical about the supposed influence of the mother's imagination in producing physical changes in the fetus, yet I have not doubted that strong mental emotions may propagate upon it a temporary nervous influence, and your reference to the case of Elizabeth is a very happy illustration of the fact, while, at the same time, you have thus supplied a very forcible proof of the truthfulness of that remarkable narrative; for, in expounding that phenomenon by a great and recondite physiological principle, it carries an important weight to all the other details. Your other citation of the death of the fetus, after the mother has sustained a mental shock, is also strongly to your purpose. There is great sagacity in the inference which you have derived from your anatomical premises, that "the organic nerves effect the depuration of the blood in the placental lobule;" that is, the conversion of venous into arterial blood. Should this prove to be true, it would not only have been a great inductive process, but will contribute much towards a right philosophy of the functions of the nervous system; it is certainly well sustained by late experiments of Bernard upon the nerves supplying glandular bodies, by which he has shown that the nerves exercise the controlling influence upon the color of the blood in those bodies which you attribute to the nerves in the "placental lobule."

Very truly and respectfully yours,

MARTYN PAINE.

From W. H. PORTER, Esq., A.M., M.D., *Professor of Surgery, R.C.S., Ireland; Senior Surgeon to the Meath Hospital and Co. Dublin Infirmary; Ex-President R.C.S., Ireland.*

21 KILDARE STREET, DUBLIN, }
April 16, 1860. }

MY DEAR SIR—I have received the April number of the *American Medical Gazette*, which contains an interesting article on the Nervous Centres of Animal and Organic Life, written by you, and for which I suppose I am indebted to your kindness and attention. I have perused it most carefully, and can most truly say, have derived from it equal pleasure and advantage; it is a part of our professional literature that has been too much neglected; and as it now seems likely to attract attention at your side of the world, it gives me great pleasure to see the movement headed by a Licentiate of the Irish College. It is quite true "that a knowledge of these systems is what must ultimately distinguish the scientific from the superficial physician."

Believe me, dear sir, very faithfully,

WILLIAM HENRY PORTER.

From JOHN W. FRANCIS, Esq., LL.D., M.D., *Ex-Professor of the Practice of Midwifery, &c.*

NEW YORK, Feb. 25, 1859.

DR. O'REILLY:

Dear Sir—I have read with care your several papers on the nervous and ganglionic systems. They abound in interesting facts, some of which are new to me.

You must have labored devotedly to bring together such a fund of material, and been an observer of more than ordinary acuteness. You have done well, in my humble opinion, to awaken interest in the Ganglionic System—too much overlooked.

I hope you will prepare your several articles for an entire communication.

Let me thank you, dear sir, for your polite attention.

With true regard and esteem, your friend,

JOHN W. FRANCIS.

From WILLIAM DETMOLD, Esq., M.D.

NEW YORK, August 16, 1859.

JOHN O'REILLY, M.D.:

My dear Dr.—Accept my thanks for your work on the Placenta and its connection with the nervous centres. I have perused it with great interest, and, I assure you, not without profit to myself.

Believe me very truly yours,

WM. DETMOLD, M.D.

From JOHN M. CARNOCHAN, Esq., M.D., *Professor of Surgery; Surgeon-in-Chief to the Emigrants' Hospital, Ward's Island.*

45 LAFAYETTE PLACE, Feb. 17, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR—I am much obliged to you for your several articles elucidating the phenomena of various functions and manifestations of some portions of the nervous system.

I have read them with much gratification, and believe you have struck upon a theme replete with much important matter, and from the study and analysis of which many useful revelations are to spring.

I have long thought that medicine has to gain its claim as an exact science through such studies as those with a *résumé* of which you have been so kind as to furnish me.

I am, dear sir, very respectfully yours,

DR. JOHN O'REILLY.

J. M. CARNOCHAN.

Extract of a Letter from FORDYCE BARKER, Esq., M.D., Ex-Professor of the Practice of Midwifery, &c.

MY DEAR DR. O'REILLY—I have read your papers on the source of Puerperal Hemorrhage and on the Connection of the Nervous Centres of Animal and Organic Life with great pleasure and profit. I congratulate you on your successful study of important pathological questions on a physiological basis, and I hope your contributions will stimulate a new spirit of inquiry.

Extract of a Letter from SAMUEL B. FERRO, Esq., M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Medical Jurisprudence, in the New York Medical College and Charity Hospital.

NEW YORK, March 4, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR—I have read with inexpressible interest your last monograph, and especially that part of it relating to the action of medicines on the organic nervous system. Owing to various circumstances, both necessity and choice have led me to study *Materia Medica*, and I have often been compelled to acknowledge that many of the unsuccessful results of practice have been owing to a want of correct knowledge of the therapeutic action of medicines. Your monograph to some extent supplies this deficiency, and explains to us the *modus operandi* of many remedial agents. No thoughtful physician can read your remarks without instruction; for if there may be points which are not in perfect accordance with his own experience, they open to him a vein of study which he can follow with much profit.



"C, C, Corpus Callosum. O, O, O, Internal Convolution. b, Septum Lucidum. a, Anterior Commissure. f, Fornix. e, Superior Layer of the Crura Cerebri. d, Inferior Layer of the same, separated from the former by the *Lequa Niger*."

"The fibres of the Internal Convolution are seen in the middle lobe, extending to the Hippocampus Major."

The *seres fibres* or *substantia* of the Fornix are remarkably well shown, and particular attention is directed to them on page 80, with a view of one descending thence etc.

I am indebted to my countryman, the late highly-distinguished and deeply-lamented Dr. R. B. Todd, for the beautiful Engraving from which the above is copied, exhibiting the "Internal Surface of the Left Hemisphere of the Brain, showing the Connections of the Internal Convolution, and the Band of Longitudinal Fibres by which it is formed."

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BY

JOHN O'REILLY, M.D.,

LICENTIATE AND FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND;
RESIDENT FELLOW OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE; MEMBER
OF THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL COLLEGE OF NEW YORK; LATE
MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE DUBLIN WORKHOUSE AND
FEVER HOSPITAL, IRELAND.

*"Quidquid proecipies, esto brevis, ut cito dicat
Percipiant animi dociles, teneantque fidelis."—Hor.*



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S. S. & W. WOOD, 389 BROADWAY.

LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

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