

**ERUPTIONS: THEIR
REAL NATURE, AND
RATIONAL TREATMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649373130

Eruptions: their real nature, and rational treatment by Barr Meadows

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Cover @ 2017

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BARR MEADOWS

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ERUPTIONS :

THEIR REAL NATURE, AND RATIONAL
TREATMENT.

BY

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Institution for Diseases of the Skin; late of the Royal Pimlico Dispensary;
and formerly in the service of H.M.'s East Indian Government.*

EIGHTH EDITION.

"Although the Medical World is under strong and lasting obligations to the late Dr. Willan, and to his pupil, Dr. Bateman, for their arrangement of Cutaneous Diseases, in which they have exhibited much ability and unwearied industry, very little has been added to our stock of knowledge regarding the curæ of these most troublesome and vexatious diseases."—*Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*.—Vol. xvi.



LONDON:

GEORGE HILL, 154, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD.

1880.

151. m. 495.

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"Of course the disciples of Hahnemann will accuse him of partiality. He contrasts the Homœopathic theory with the practices adopted, and exposes sufficient contradiction to create much scepticism as to the merits of that system."—*Somerset County Herald.*

"Dr. Barr Meadows is so well known in the medical world that anything from his pen is sure to be treated with respect. The author writes vigorously but temperately. This very able pamphlet ought to be widely circulated."—*The Metropolitan.*

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"An original and exceedingly clever little work."—*Carmarthen Journal.*

"The arguments are supported by statistics showing that the mortality under Homœopathic treatment in Fleischmann's hospital is double that of six of the large public hospitals, that of Exeter among them."—*Exeter Post.*

"The author of this treatise writes in a very forcible style. Not content with slaying his opponents, he scapes them."—*Homœopathic Observer.*

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"Denounces the theory of Hahnemann and the practices of his followers with very much vigour and considerable ability, and produces a powerful array of facts to demonstrate the folly of the premises the believers in Homœopathy argue from."—*Southampton Observer.*

"Should it tend to shake the confidence of those whose faith is founded on bigotry rather than reason it will have a beneficial effect."—*Sussex Daily News.*

The subject of this pamphlet is a vital one."—*Western Times.*

"Dr. Meadows has done good service to his profession by publishing this work."—*South Wales Express.*

P R E F A C E .

IN confirmation of my statements as to the empirical character of the system which is still taught and practised by the great body of the profession, I have thought it right to introduce, as foot notes, several passages from the more recent publications upon this subject—some of which, I am happy to think, give complete, if unintentional, corroboration and support to the views which it is my sincere wish to see generally and practically accepted. It is now seventeen years since these views were published, and a largely increased experience continues to confirm my opinion as to the soundness and value of the simple, as compared with the specific systems. The general literature of medicine, likewise, affords ample evidence of

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the gradual, but still constant and progressive change which is taking place in the views of the profession, some, even amongst those to whom systems of classification are necessities, directly or indirectly, being forced to acknowledge their dependence upon general indications in the treatment of cutaneous disease, and, whilst maintaining their ideal speciality, to modify, somewhat, their faith in the practicability of specifics. Whether the publication of this little book has in any way contributed to this alteration I do not presume to say—I notice its occurrence subsequently—but with every confidence in the eventful downfall of all artificial classifications of disease, and of all empirical systems, once more offer to the reader my reasons for repudiating the old and well-worn teachings of the schools.

BARR MEADOWS.

47, *Victoria Street,*
Westminster.

NOTE TO FIFTH EDITION.

The *British Medical Journal*, of January 22nd, 1870, in a leading article on "Modern Dermatology," says:—

"We want a critical investigation of skin diseases in their relation with diseases of other organs. Are diseases of the kidney or of the liver frequently productive of them? and, if so, what are the peculiarities of such? Which are in special relation with the nervous system? Are diseases of the intestinal or pulmonary mucous membranes frequently associated with those of the skin? We earnestly beg of our specialists in this department that they will abandon all useless controversy as to nomenclature, orthography, and classification, and betake themselves to the earnest study of the causes of the maladies which come under their care."

I thank the learned Editor for thus so ably seconding the advice, which I have, in four previous Editions, endeavoured to enforce.

INTRODUCTION.

THE aim of the following pages is to demonstrate the symptomatic nature of eruptions generally, to endeavour to disabuse the mind of prejudices in favour of the unscientific and obstructive system of classification so universally in vogue, and to point out the one only, natural, simple, and successful plan of treatment, which, in accordance with the general principles of Medicine, may always be relied upon.

Without hesitation as to the expression of an opinion as to the empirical character of all plans of treatment having regard only to objective symptoms, we at the same time desire to be distinctly understood, to have no intention to disparage, or fail in due respect to those gentlemen who follow the general practice or promulgate the general views; they but follow the teaching they have received, and which they no doubt regard as authoritatively perfect. Many learned men have, indeed, given to the system, originally promulgated by Drs. Willan and Bateman, all the support which any such method is capable to receive; but no authorities, however celebrated, can make wrong right, or controvert reason and common-sense.

Willan's system was introduced at a period when physicians knew literally nothing about the nature or treatment of eruptions ; and, truth to say, but little more about diseases generally—empirical practice was then the rule, and no method, in consequence, was more calculated to be well received than the one in question—whilst supported by men of note and celebrity, it, in course of time, began to be looked upon as an institution, the age of which, ever increasing, has maintained for it respect. Many other traditional fallacies have been swept away, rapid strides have been made in the various branches of Medical knowledge and the collateral sciences, and we make a call to all concerned in a desire to improve the practice of Medicine, to dismiss from their minds all preconceived ideas as to the special nature of these disorders, and, with unbiassed judgments, to decide between “differential diagnosis” and common sense—to allow reason to replace tradition, and to extend to affections, accompanied by cutaneous eruption, those more rational rules of practice, which a knowledge of their real character demands.

Cutaneous affections rank confessedly amongst the opprobria of our art. There are, indeed, sufficient *natural* difficulties in their treatment, but the chief, whereby they so frequently baffle