

**THE DISEASES OF INFANTS &
CHILDREN, AND THEIR
HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.
WITH HINTS ON THE GENERAL
MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN**

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The Diseases of Infants & Children, and Their Homeopathic Treatment. With Hints on the General Management of Children by E. Harris Ruddock

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E. HARRIS RUDDOCK

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THE
DISEASES OF INFANTS & CHILDREN,

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HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT:

With Hints on the General Management of Children.

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P R E F A C E.

AFTER long but unavoidable delay, this Manual on children's diseases is sent forth on its errand. It makes no pretension to be an exhaustive treatise, to write which the author has not had sufficient time at his disposal; it is simply a practical contribution to the alleviation and cure of those diseases which are of most frequent and fatal occurrence. The book is intended to be a companion-volume to the "Lady's Manual of Homœopathic Treatment." Taken together, they deal with subjects of the highest importance to individuals, to families, and to the community at large. From healthy mothers and a healthy progeny—sound in mind and body—we may expect future generations of healthy men and women.

The present work is, from beginning to end, based on *preventive* as well as curative treatment. The author, having great faith in the principles and practice enunciated, anticipates the best results from its publication, whenever its hygienic and medical prescriptions are fairly adopted, and persistently carried out.

In the treatment of children there is much to encourage the practitioner. Their diseases are generally uncomplicated by internal organic changes, and by those deep and complex disorders of nutrition which result from the abused organs or over-used brains of the middle-aged, or from those degenerative changes which are to be found in the body during the decline of life. Neither are children liable to that emotional *depression* which often tells so disastrously on the recovery of adults. With them memory has nothing regretful to recall, and, after an illness, hope rises with exultant wing. They live emphatically in the present, and are exempt from the despondency which, in mature life, is apt to attend reflections on the *past* or anticipations of the *future*.

Sometimes, however, the desired victory is not gained: disease triumphs, and a young life is lost, leaving a

blank in the domestic circle which cannot soon be filled. The silence that reigns in the house, the vacant nursery, the unused toys, the treasured clothing, all speak eloquently and mournfully of the loss which is sustained by the bereaved household, and which frequently awakens the deep sympathy of the physician whose skill and care have been frustrated. Happily, the reverse of this generally happens, and the agony of suspense—so exquisitely expressed by David, "Who can tell whether God will be gracious unto me, that the child may live?"—is relieved, and the child, just now so seriously ill, recovers, to make his parents happy, perhaps to accomplish a great work, and to leave a name in which posterity will rejoice.

The book is not simply a compilation from other works of the author. Some of the sections are entirely new; and in all of them important additions and alterations have been made, so as to bring the work abreast with the most recent advances in medicine, while such special points on diagnosis and treatment have been introduced as are calculated to render the Manual a useful guide to the treatment of the diseases of infancy and childhood.

The author has much pleasure in acknowledging his indebtedness to Dr. Lade, of Glasgow, for very effective help. He has read over a large portion of the work in manuscript, and added some valuable notes, which will be found in various parts of the Manual. It is sent forth with the earnest hope that it may prove a boon to many little ones.

E. H. RUDDOCK.

2, FINSBURY CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C.

March, 1873.

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