

EPILEPSY AND ITS SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT

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Epilepsy and its successful treatment by Geo. Borlase Hicks

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GEO. BORLASE HICKS

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BY

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HENRY RENSHAW

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P R E F A C E.

IN the following pages on the important subject of Epilepsy the author begs leave to place before his readers a mode of treatment that has, in his hands, been a means of dealing with this distressing malady with the happiest results; and if in all cases the disease has not been eradicated, life has at least been rendered more enjoyable and happy, by lengthening the intervals between the attacks, and improving the general health, thus restoring the patient to society, and at the same time affording the greatest relief to the anxieties of relatives and friends, to whom the well-being of these unfortunate sufferers is fraught with momentous issues.

for cases, apparently the most unfavourable, have been found to yield to the treatment advanced in these pages.

It being generally acknowledged that Insanity, Paralysis, and other forms of disease of the nervous system, have of late years increased to an alarming extent, we cannot be surprised that there should be such a large augmentation of the numbers who suffer from Epilepsy, since the causes that operate to produce these diseases exist, in the present day, to a far greater extent than they formerly did. The increased call upon nervous energy, coupled with the anxieties of ordinary life, are no doubt their most fruitful source, but the author attributes some of this misery to habits of life and modes of education, particularly amongst females. Late hours, and exciting amusements, tend to keep the brain and nervous system in a state of tension most detrimental to the

healthy discharge of their functions, as well as debilitating to the physical powers.

In conclusion, the author begs to ask of his readers that indulgence which his humble efforts require, and ventures to hope that it will be accorded to him.

149, AMHURST ROAD, HACKNEY, LONDON.

January, 1879.

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BEFORE entering upon a brief consideration of the pathology and treatment of Epilepsy, I do not consider it will be too much to say that of all diseases to which the human family is subject, none perhaps has had so large a share of the attention of the medical profession as has this terrible malady. Neither age, sex, nor rank is an exemption from this disease, although its frequency varies at different periods of life, daily experience showing that it most commonly commences in youth; it may be said, with equal truth, that until the last few years, no other disease has offered such resistance to the effects of almost every medicine and plan of treatment that