

**ON SOME DISORDERS OF THE NERVOUS
SYSTEM IN CHILDHOOD: BEING THE
LUMLEIAN LECTURES DELIVERED AT THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF
LONDON IN MARCH 1871**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649475193

On Some Disorders of the Nervous System in Childhood: Being the Lumleian Lectures Delivered at the Royal College of Physicians of London in March 1871 by Charles West

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CHARLES WEST

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LUMLEIAN LECTURES

DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
OF LONDON, IN MARCH, 1871,

BY
CHARLES WEST, M.D.,

FELLOW AND SENIOR CENSOR OF THE COLLEGE; PHYSICIAN
TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.



PHILADELPHIA:
HENRY C. LEA.

1871.

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1871

TO
SIR JAMES ALDERSON,
KNT., M.D., F.R.S.,
LATE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS,
WHO DESIGNATED ME TO THE OFFICE OF
LUMLEIAN LECTURER:
AND TO THE
FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE,
SOME MY TEACHERS, OTHERS MY COLLEAGUES, ALL MY FRIENDS,
WHO HONORED ME WITH THEIR PRESENCE, AND
REWARDED ME BY THEIR APPROBATION,
I GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATE THESE PAGES.

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ON SOME DISORDERS
OF
THE NERVOUS SYSTEM
IN
CHILDHOOD.

LECTURE I.

ON NEURALGIA AND EPILEPSY.

Introductory.—History of foundation of Lumslean Lectures.—Sketch of Dr. Caldwell and Lord Lumsley—Harvey one of the Lumslean lecturers.—Difficulty in choice of subject.—Circumstances which limit choice.—Reasons for selecting diseases of early life, and for choosing disorders of nervous system, with reference to—1st. Sensation; 2d Motion; 3d. Power of Speech; 4th. Mental and Moral powers.—1st. To Sensation: rarity of pure neuralgia; risks of error in cases of brain disease; of disease of hip-joint.—2d. To Motion: import of convulsions; epilepsy, what is meant by it; relation of convulsions in early infancy to epilepsy in childhood; frequency of attacks more important than their severity; influence of epilepsy on moral character most striking in childhood; circumstances which govern prognosis; causes of epilepsy; its treatment; influence of specifics; of bromide of potass; importance of moral treatment; of mental occupation.—Treatment and cure of disease imply something higher than mere administration of drugs.—Conclusion.

MR. PRESIDENT,—GENTLEMEN,—Two of the faults which this nineteenth century is some-