

**A DISSERTATION ON THE  
INFLUENCE OF  
THE PASSIONS UPON  
DISORDERS OF THE BODY**

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A Dissertation on the Influence of the Passions Upon Disorders of the Body by William Falconer

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**WILLIAM FALCONER**

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BY  
WILLIAM FALCONER, *M.D. F.R.S.*  
AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE  
MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

BEING  
The ESSAY to which the FOTHERGILLIAN  
MEDAL was adjudged.

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LONDON:

Printed for C. DILLY in the Poultry; and J. PHILLIPS,  
George-Yard, Lombard-Street. 1788.







## INTRODUCTION.

As the following Essay has been crowned with the first prize medal of the MEDICAL SOCIETY, it may not be improper to explain the origin of the institution of the FOTHERGILLIAN MEDAL, by the insertion of the subsequent letter.

---

“ To the MEDICAL SOCIETY of LONDON.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ **T**O preserve the memory of illustrious  
“ characters by some permanent me-  
“ morial, is not only grateful to the friends  
“ of the deceased, but excites in the living  
“ that commendable emulation, which leads  
“ to great and virtuous actions. Such were  
“ those which will render dear to distant  
“ a posterity

“ posterity the name of Dr. JOHN FOTHER-  
 “ GILL, in memory of whom I have order-  
 “ ed a medal to be struck, under the pa-  
 “ tronage and at the disposal of the Medical  
 “ Society of London. It will be in gold,  
 “ of ten guineas value, to be called the  
 “ FOTHERGILLIAN MEDAL, and be given an-  
 “ nually, on the 8th day of March, to the  
 “ author of the best Essay upon a prize  
 “ question, proposed by the Society, on a  
 “ subject of Medicine or Natural History.

“ The manner of proposing the annual  
 “ question, and of determining upon the  
 “ merits of the memoirs of the candidates,  
 “ I refer to the determination of the Society ;  
 “ being persuaded, from the unanimity of  
 “ their meetings, and the learning and  
 “ judgment of their members, that their  
 “ decisions will be calculated to promote  
 “ medical science in particular, and physics  
 “ in general, which are my motives for re-  
 “ questing their patronage of the FOTHER-  
 “ GILLIAN MEDAL.

“ JOHN COAKLEY LETTSOM.”

*London.*

*May 25, 1784.*

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“ MEDICAL SOCIETY of LONDON.

*June 4th, 1784.*

“ SIR,

“ AT a special meeting of the Medical  
“ Society, convened for the purpose of  
“ taking into consideration your very liberal  
“ proposal of the FOTHERGILLIAN MEDAL, to  
“ be disposed of annually, at the option,  
“ and under the patronage of this Society:

“ I am ordered to inform you, that the  
“ same has been considered accordingly, and  
“ met that warm reception and approbation  
“ such a distinguished favour was so well  
“ entitled to:

“ And that this Society, being highly  
“ sensible how much you had thereby con-  
“ tributed to its advantage and reputation,  
“ order me to present you with the Thanks  
“ which were unanimously voted to you at  
“ this meeting.

By order of the Society,

WM WOODVILLE,

(one of the Secretaries.)

“ To J. C. Lettsom, M. D. &c.”