

**ON HERNIAL AND OTHER  
TUMOURS OF THE GROIN AND  
ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD: WITH  
PRACTICAL REMARKS ON THE  
RADICAL CURE OF RUPTURES**

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On Hernial and Other Tumours of the Groin and Its Neighbourhood: With Practical Remarks  
on the Radical Cure of Ruptures by Carsten Holthouse

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**CARSTEN HOLTHOUSE**

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BY  
1870-1874  
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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS small work has its origin in two clinical lectures, delivered to the students of the Westminster Hospital in the year 1863. The object of the lectures was, first, to direct attention to the difficulties which occasionally beset the diagnosis of hernial tumours; and, secondly, to protest against the too prevalent practice of herniotomy in cases which, though temporarily irreducible, are unaccompanied by symptoms of strangulation. The present treatise is an expansion of those lectures, with many additional cases, illustrative and in support of the principles therein inculcated. The class of readers to whom these pages are addressed, being the advanced student and the young practitioner, and its main object diagnosis, as subsidiary to treatment, I have thought this would be more perfectly accomplished by a simple relation of cases, with the comments which they naturally give rise to, than by any set treatise on the subject. Most of the cases here narrated have come under my own observation, and are copied, almost verbatim, from my note books. I have not hesitated, however, when necessary for the illustration of my text, to borrow from that valuable collection of facts published by the Pathological Society; as well as from the classical works of Pott, Cooper, and Lawrence. I wish it also to be dis-

tinctly understood that the cases which illustrate errors of diagnosis or treatment, are published in no depreciatory spirit, but purely from a conviction that a knowledge of these is the best antidote to their recurrence; and as Frederic the Great is reported to have said that he learnt more by the loss of a battle than by a victory, so must we also have experienced a similar feeling after an error of diagnosis.

In conclusion, it may be proper to remark, that the word "tumour" is made use of, not only in its more restricted and technical sense, but in its etymological signification of swelling generally. The term groin, likewise, will include the region both immediately above and below Poupart's ligament.

C. HOLTHOUSE.

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