

**THE DOMESTIC
MANAGEMENT OF
INFANTS AND CHILDREN
IN HEALTH AND SICKNESS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649564286

The Domestic Management of Infants and Children in Health and Sickness by S. Barker

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

S. BARKER

**THE DOMESTIC
MANAGEMENT OF
INFANTS AND CHILDREN
IN HEALTH AND SICKNESS**

THE
DOMESTIC MANAGEMENT
OF
INFANTS AND CHILDREN
IN
HEALTH AND SICKNESS.

BY

S. BARKER, M.D. St. And:

LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH; MEMBER OF THE ROYAL
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND; LICENTIATE IN MIDWIFERY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS; FELLOW OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY, LONDON; AUTHOR OF
"THE DIET OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD," "SKIN DISEASES AND THEIR CURE,"
ETC.

LONDON:

ROBERT HARDWICKE, 192, PICCADILLY.

1865.

157. m. 5.

Dedicated to

THOMAS HERBERT BARKER, M.D., F.R.C.S., &c.

MY ELDER BROTHER,

AND FELLOW-LABOURER IN THE SAME FIELD OF STUDY.

PREFACE.

THE contents of this treatise are offered as the result of many years close observation of children, both in their healthy and normal condition, and when suffering under their numerous and diversified ailments.

Not alone the wider fields of study afforded by the Children's Hospital in our own metropolis, as also the Hôpital pour les Enfants Malades, Paris, with several subsequent years of private practice; but that far more valuable, though less extended sphere, my own nursery, have been the fertile sources, from which I have garnered up the chief subject matter of the following pages. From constant contact with children in every stage of their growth and development—by night, as well as by day—during the silence of sleep, and the hours of wakefulness—in health and in sickness—opportunities of *practical* study have been afforded me, as can hardly be commanded under any other circumstances; and in the course of my readings and observations, it has long been my habit, to commit to paper, every fact and incident I considered of real utility. Especially has it been my custom to note down, as they occurred to me, observations connected with the *management* of infants and children, in which, from the opportunities afforded me of judging, I conceived there was room for improvement.

The *true* province of the medical man is assuredly as much that of *preventing* disease by every available means, as removing or alleviating it when present; and who will deny that the former object is not the more elevated and useful of the two? By no arts and appliances, can this be more certainly effectuated, than in laying the foundation of health and probable longevity at the very outset of life—on the threshold, as it were, of existence—when the bodily powers, together with the mental manifestations, are plastic and more capable of being moulded by the hand of choice or necessity. When it is considered that the comfort and happiness of an entire life may be jeopardized by the ignorance of those who have the guardianship of its tender opening years, this prevision and forethought becomes the ostensible duty, and especial requirement, of those in whom confidence is placed. That this subject—the management of children and new-born infants, *par excellence*—has not received, on the part of medical teachers and students, that attention due to its magnitude and importance, as regards both its present and future results, will, I think, be admitted; and it seems an anomaly in the *curriculum* of an otherwise scientific and systematic education that ought not to exist: for surely

no valid reason can be adduced, why the diseases of children, and collaterally those of women, should be in most instances, nearly, and in many altogether disregarded by both teachers and pupils, who nevertheless evince very laudable assiduity in the more manipulative studies—*anatomy and surgery*—simply to qualify themselves for the performance of operations that may possibly never occur to them, and the ability to perform which is, at any rate, tolerably sure not to be required at the outset of a young man's career in practice.

Not to all men is given the tact to prescribe for, or the acumen to *detect*, the character of disease among children when first seen, even when probably ready detection and prompt remedy may make the important difference between speedy recovery and speedy death. Again, the application to which a student may have submitted himself to attain skill as an operator, or to become imbued with the more striking facts of *anatomy and physiology*; to be learned in the most recent and most generally accepted appliances, medical or surgical, as adapted to adults, highly useful and important as they may be for their several purposes; are often, comparatively, of little value, when his services are in demand among infants and children. Moreover, although a medical man should be equal to any of the thousand possible emergencies, and to the competent treatment of all cases whether medical or surgical, in every branch of his profession; yet, often is the individual, so educated and so accomplished, "weighed in the balance and found wanting;" and he who by his previous application has become so competent to the details of manipulative surgery, yet must begin, *de novo* as it were, a fresh career of study and observation, ere he can safely undertake the diseases of childhood, protean in their shapes, rapid in their course, and too often fatal in their termination.

The necessity for a popular work of this nature, has repeatedly suggested itself to me, while witnessing the prevailing absence of that essential knowledge of which every woman should be careful to possess herself, before incurring the responsibilities of maternity. Instances almost innumerable, must have occurred in the experience of every medical practitioner at all largely engaged in the midwifery department of his profession, of women who have passed through their girlhood to marriage, and motherhood, with but little interest in what is actually involved in the latter condition; as though they imagined the peculiar and special knowledge, then most desirable, came by intuition, and were consequently therefore in no way qualified for their gravest of all responsibilities, either by reading, inquiry, observation, or experience. This too, at the very time when, of all others, even a rudimentary acquaintance with the laws of infant life and health, so essential to the due fulfilment of their new duties, would

have been of paramount service. How often has a young mother found to her sorrow, that had she been acquainted with only a portion of the information conveyed by these pages—alas! then too late—her now lost darling might perchance have been spared to her: for as surely as that the far larger proportion of the children who die are the victims of ignorance and mismanagement, so the majority are, from their birth, endowed with health and stamina conducive to a longer existence.

Neither is this treatise written in censure, but in sympathy; for none but a parent can feel the poignancy, and bitter grief of such afflictions; nor is it possible for other than a parent to appreciate its deep sorrows and never ending regrets, softened only by the ever present consolation, that in dying thus early these dear ones are "taken away from the evil to come," and "of such is the kingdom of heaven." On the other hand, it has often been my happiness to witness the look of mingled fear, wonder, gratitude, in the countenance of the young mother—whose offspring, after the advent of a startling fit or sudden convulsion has just returned to consciousness; or after the wearying exhaustion of some lingering disorder has emerged from a period of danger more or less imminent—possibly from the very brink of death—to mark the silent prayer to that Omnipotence which "neither slumbereth nor sleepeth;" that over-ruling Providence without whose knowledge, not even a sparrow falleth to the ground; and without whose aid the rarest skill, the tenderest care, and the most judiciously selected remedies will be in vain.

Every practitioner, who has had much experience in the treatment of children, must also have been struck with the too prevalent ignorance of even the commonest laws of *hygiene*, as regards these little members of the community: so much have I been impressed with this fact that I have been led to hope the present work may be of some slight service. Useful as I therefore trust it will be found by many persons, it is now presented to the public; and earnestly do I hope it will be received in the same spirit in which it is offered. The responsibility of imparting knowledge is, I fear, not sufficiently felt by those whose opportunities of observation afford greater facilities for its acquisition; and although I have no doubt that some will think, with truth, the present treatise could have been done more effectually by others, this is no argument for its being left altogether unattempted. Were I to wait, till my little work approached nearer perfection, or even to attain what might reasonably be required of it, the probabilities are against its ever seeing the light. I have striven as far as possible to avoid ambiguity; and as it was principally concocted, during the brief leisure afforded by the constantly recurring engagements of a daily increasing private practice;

besides the responsibilities of certain appointments, that involved the oversight of multitudes of patients of all ages, and in every condition of sickness; it is hoped these considerations will favourably influence the reader, and mitigate the censure of criticism.

Onerous as are such duties, they have their compensations; bringing one as they do in daily contact with sickness and suffering among children as well as adults; and affording opportunities of witnessing the various phases of disease, of every kind and degree, not by two's and three's merely, but by scores, and sometimes by hundreds, within a brief period; of noticing for example at one and the same time, the same malady in every stage of its progress, from the earliest manifestation of disorder, to its termination in recovery or death. Nor is this all, for facilities are also afforded of testing simultaneously, on a large scale, the relative value of the various modes of treatment in vogue, and thus often disproving by observation and experiment, those chimeras promulgated from wild and ill-considered theories, unsupported as they too frequently are, by the valid experience of the sick room.

At the end of the work will be found a list of the different authors, whose standard productions I have consulted; and at the risk of being considered invidious, there is one book in particular ("The Diseases of Infants and Mothers," by Dr. Ballard), to which I would draw the attention of Medical Practitioners, as containing, in small compass, more common sense, and sound practical experience in some very common ailments, than many volumes of far more pretentious title and magnitude.

I must not conclude without acknowledging my obligations to my friend J. J. SEWELL, Esq., to whose matured judgment and extensive experience I have been indebted for many valuable suggestions.

14, EATON PLACE,

BRIGHTON, 1865.