

**ON AFFECTIONS OF THE THROAT
AND LUNGS, AND THEIR
TREATMENT BY THE INHALATION
OF GASES AND MEDICATED
VAPOURS**

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On Affections of the Throat and Lungs, and Their Treatment by the Inhalation of Gases and Medicated Vapours by Abbotts Smith

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&c. &c.

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ON
Affections of the Throat
AND
Lungs,

And their Treatment by the Inhalation of Gases
and Medicated Vapours.

BY

ABBOTTS SMITH, M.D.,

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN this Work, "On the Inhalation of Gases and Medicated Vapours," the Author has endeavoured to give a concise historical sketch of the subject, and an account of the principal uses of Inhalation.

The subject is one which, from its importance, might have been treated of at much greater length; but as the principal part of it was originally written for the Medical periodical in which it appeared, it was necessary to condense the matter as much as possible, and several points have been discussed in a few lines which might readily have been extended to as many pages.

In the publication of these remarks on Inhalation, the Author desires chiefly to draw additional attention to the value of this method of treatment, and to vindicate the Medical Profession from the charges

which had been brought against it, in certain quarters, of indifference to, or ignorance of, its merits.*

22, FINSBURY SQUARE,
LONDON, E.C.

* It should be mentioned, in explanation of this remark, that it was penned at a time when the general press teemed with monster advertisements, while some Journals even went the length to insert articles, making these unfounded charges against the medical profession, in connection with laudatory notices, of a person named Hunter, who claimed extraordinary skill in the application of a self-styled "novel" mode of treating disorders. This "novel" treatment was Inhalation, employed so ignorantly and recklessly that within a few months Hunter's career was cut short by the articles in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, out of which arose the action of Hunter v. *Pall Mall Gazette*. At this trial, Hunter's ignorance of the method which he professed to follow was fully shown, so that his charges rebounded upon himself.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

DURING the few months which have elapsed since the publication of the first edition of this Work, the employment of Inhalation in the treatment of affections of the lungs and air-passages has been more widely extended, and it promises, in due course of time, to become as commonly practised as any other local mode of medication.

No small amount of opposition to its introduction has been encountered in two different quarters; on the one hand, arising from prejudice, the natural enemy of progress; on the other, mainly attributable to the disgust which has not unreasonably been felt by those who have witnessed the extent to which inhalation has been made a medium for the practice of quackery.

As regards the first class of objectors, viz.—those who are prejudiced against this mode of