

**MINOR MEDICINE: A  
TREATISE ON THE  
NATURE AND TREATMENT  
OF COMMON AILMENTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649649310

Minor Medicine: A Treatise on the Nature and Treatment of Common Ailments by Walter  
Essex Wynter

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**WALTER ESSEX WYNTER**

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# MINOR MEDICINE

A Treatise on the Nature and  
Treatment of Common Ailments

By

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NEW YORK AND LONDON  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1909

To  
MY HOUSE PHYSICIANS  
WHOSE INTEREST AND COLLABORATION  
HAVE ENCOURAGED THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
ARRANGEMENT OF THE MATTER SET  
FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING  
PAGES

## PREFACE

For who hath despised the day of small things!—*Zechariah* iv. 10.

THE change in the system of medical education some thirty years ago, whereby the custom of commencing as pupil to a medical man in general practice was abandoned in favour of proceeding straight from the course of general education to a medical school or university, has involved certain deficiencies in the knowledge of those so trained. Since the subjects of what might be regarded as trifling disorders either do not present themselves at a hospital or are intercepted in the casualty department in order to spare the time and energy of the visiting staff, the present-day student has little or no opportunity of familiarising himself with those slighter maladies which are likely to be among the first encountered when he commences practice. This is no doubt accentuated by the natural tendency of students to concentrate their attention on those organic diseases which are mostly inquired about at examinations and to interest themselves in rare diseases, complex or extensive operations, and questions of higher research—matters of the utmost importance in regard to the progress of medicine, but with which those who are occupied in family practice, and who constitute perhaps ninety per cent. of the profession, are comparatively rarely directly concerned, at all events in early years. It is



in the hope of conveying some information, and of arousing interest in the sphere of Minor Medicine, that the present small volume has been written.

My grateful acknowledgments are due to Mr. G. S. Hughes for help and suggestions in revising the proofs and preparing the index.

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*September 2, 1907.*

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