

**CHILDREN'S AILMENTS; HOW TO  
DISTINGUISH, AND HOW TO TREAT THEM.  
BEING A MANUAL OF NURSERY MEDICINE,  
ADDRESSED TO MOTHERS AND NURSES,  
AND TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN  
CARING FOR THE LITTLE ONES**

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**WILLIAM BOOTH**

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# Children's Ailments;

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BY

## A MANUAL OF NURSERY MEDICINE,

ADDRESSED TO

MOTHERS AND NURSES,

And to all who are Interested in Caring for the Little Ones.

BY

WILLIAM BOOTH, L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.I.,

AND LICENTIATE

IN

MIDWIFERY AND THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

BY THE SPECIAL DIPLOMAS OF

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, IRELAND,

AND

THE COOKE OBSTETRIC HOSPITAL.



LONDON:

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MAY BE HAD OF

ALL BOOKSELLERS, AND OF CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS.

1878.

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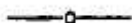
# CHILDREN'S AILMENTS.

*A MANUAL OF NURSERY MEDICINE.*





## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.



IN presuming to put this little work into the hands of the public, I feel it desirable to offer some explanation of the causes which have led to my doing so, and of the objects that I have in view.

During the time that I was occupied in an extensive practice in the populous district of Bloomsbury, and since I have been resident here, I have constantly had occasion to note the want that existed among mothers of families that I was attending, of some practical information on the very important subject of their children's health.

I have had many opportunities of noticing and deploring the effects of an ignorance, entire or partial, of matters that fell within my proper consideration as a physician, and that came before me in different ways. Now, for example;—there is the too-sanguine—I will not say careless—mother, who never will believe that her child can be really sickening, let it pine and fret as it may, until very palpable proofs indeed make themselves apparent. In this lady's opinion "symptoms" are "nonsense"; and what she terms "a good night's rest," with possibly a dose of castor

oil, is with her a sovereign and sufficient remedy for all infantile and childish illness. Many little patients have I had, who, had their mothers been a trifle more observant and better informed on such subjects, need never have come under my hands at all, and would have been saved from grave and serious malady.

On the other hand there is the precipitate and over-anxious mother, who is incessantly bothering her medical attendant with the trivial and fanciful ailments of her young ones, which ought to have been amenable to her own treatment had she had a little knowledge of what I may style "nursery medicine." The use of this term reminds me of Homœopathy, the practice of which absurd invention seems to afford great satisfaction to the feminine mind. There is something very fascinating about the neat little cases of diminutive bottles, the sugar-globules with their fantastic names, and all the rest of it; but I would have my readers remember, that, in presence of real disorder, all such trifling must be laid aside, and effective measures adopted, or the same evils must be expected that would follow entire neglect.

Of course I have not failed to remark on these and kindred subjects to the ladies themselves, and have generally been met with some such response as—"Well, Doctor, how was I to know?"—How indeed! When I came to look over my book-shelves in hopes of finding some manual that I might confidently com-

mend to maternal perusal, I was unable to find any that seemed exactly to meet the case. How to distinguish the grave diseases of childhood at their commencement from minor disorders, and how to treat the latter at home, were the subjects required, and which I failed to find set forth in any popularly appreciable manner. This, then, was the true reason that more immediately led me to put forward my own notes on children's ailments, and in pamphlet form to convey them to my lady-patients.

Since the work has reached completion, and grown somewhat beyond the original limits assigned to it, I have been induced to suppose that it may not be without its value to others, besides the matrons who honour me personally with their confidence.

I venture to hope that the hints here collected may be of some service to many mothers, and may even prove not unwelcome to professional nurses.

To all those charitable ladies, clergymen's wives, district visitors and the like, to whom the welfare of the little ones in the alleys and courts, into which their benevolent duties take them, is near at heart, I think I am justified in offering such information as these pages contain.

Lastly, the chemist and druggist, who in these days of pharmaceutical progress reasonably aspires to the position formerly held by the apothecary, will I trust find here some matter to help him, since he is now not in-