THE PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE AS APPLIED TO DYNAMICAL THERAPEUTICS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649538324

The Principles of Medicine as Applied to Dynamical Therapeutics by Herbert T. Webster

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

HERBERT T. WEBSTER

THE PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE AS APPLIED TO DYNAMICAL THERAPEUTICS

Trieste

THE

PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE

AS APPLIED TO

DYNAMICAL THERAPEUTICS

BY

HERBERT T. WEBSTER, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY; FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL COLLEGE, ETC., ETC.

DESIGNED AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ECLECTIC MEDICINE

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR
AT 855 BROADWAY, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
1891

To the Memory of a Kind Father,

JAMES HERVEY WEBSTER,

who filled a wayward son with an early ambition
to become a successful physician, and contrib-
uted substantial aid in student days,
this volume is affectionately in-
scribed by the author.

PREFACE.

Nearly two years ago I begun the preparation of a work which I designated as "Dynamical Therapeutics", and for which the present little volume was intended as an introductory declaration of principles. This portion however was hardly completed before I found myself in indifferent health,—partly the result of overwork, and partly a sequel to that fashionable disease of '90, La Grippe, and decided to spend the following summer abroad, that the benefits of rest and change might be had.

Upon a perusal of the pages of the unfinished work on my return, it seemed to me that the introductory portion, though incomplete in fullness of detail, in many particulars, really constitued the most rational principles of Eclectic Medicine that I had ever seen, and as the pages of this portion were stereotyped, and there must still remain twelve months or more before the department devoted to specific therapeutics could be completed, I decided to publish them in a separate volume; for the importance of a text-book of this kind for our college had long urged itself upon me.

The work as here offered must therefore necessarily be liable to considerable criticism. If it had been written for the purpose of separate publication, many details which have apparently been neglected would have been supplied, but which now have been relegated to the second part. But it is nevertheless believed that the subject has been sufficiently canvassed to war-

rant the presentation of these pages in a separate volume, as a work containing a rational scheme both for the study and application, of modern medicine.

While not intended as a treatise on therapeutics proper, but rather as an introduction to the study of that department, many therapeutic hints have necessarily crept in, as illustrations, which must make it still more acceptable. To facilitate ready reference to these, pains have been taken to render the index tolerably full; the author believing that the practitioner will thus find in it a source of satisfaction outside the mere theoretical aspect of the work. However, a companion volume will be published in time, which will cover the materia medica, fully corresponding to the scheme here presented.

As a literary production the work is surely faulty—the author does not need be told this. It is the result of erratic efforts made in moments snatched from a busy professional life, during which time a large practice was encroached upon by the responsibilities of the editorial management of the *California Medical Journal*, and the filling of one of the most important chairs in a college curriculum—Theory and Practice. Frequent repetition will be found—though as what has been written here has been for instruction and not for entertainment or display, this may be fairly considered a good fault.

Grammatical and typographical errors may be encountered. A number have been corrected in the plates but it is painfully evident that others remain. Should the profession, however, accord the work a liberal patronage, an effort will be made to improve upon this issue in later editions.

H. T. W.

PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE.

INTRODUCTION.

Elementary forms of life consist of single cells, each made up of a mass of protoplasm, usually containing a nucleus. Simple as the structure is, these lowly organisms possess the power of selecting material for nourishment from the surrounding medium, of appropriating it to their needs, and of reproduction, while many of them are capable of active motion. In other words, simple cells are capable of exhibiting independent nutritive, formative, and other functional activities.

Higher forms are also cellular. All living bodies are made up of cells and cell derivatives, but the more complex organization demands a community of cells with reciprocal relationship, so arranged and endowed as to operate in unison, while each one carries out its special part in the general organization; but throughout this arrangement, certain elementary properties persist, though somewhat modified by the controlling influence of elements and functions absent in the simpler forms. In the mammalia, of which man constitutes the head, as well as in many lower forms, cell function is evidently more or less governed by the influence of the nervous and circulatory systems, but notwithstanding this the endowments peculiar to independent cells still prevail, each one

possessing the faculties of selection and appropriation, independently of the others.

It is upon these properties that the therapeutist largely relies for success in the administration of remedies for the cure of disease. If cells did not possess a selective property and remedies could not be made to influence special portions of the body, the scope of therapeutics would be very much narrowed. "Specific Medication" would hardly have been written, homeopathy would have had but a feeble following, and the medicine of the past would have made but little progress.

Physiology teaches the selective properties of certain cells in the most emphatic terms. The lacteal secretion, the saliva, the gastric juice, the pancreatic fluid, the bile, the succus entericus—all the secretions as well as some of the excretions, are separated from the blood by the action of cells, the selective faculty of each endowing it for its special function.

Going further we find that the cells of every structure possess a physiological endowment distinguishing them by peculiar selective properties. The red blood corpuscles contain the salts of potassium in excess, while the plasma in which they float contains an excess of sodium. The cells of osseous tissue contain a preponderance of calcium phosphate, due largely without doubt to their capacity of imbibing the salt from the circulating medium. In short, every tissue is distinctive on account of its selective properties, though formative force carries out processes which make the distinction more marked.

Of the selective attraction of the structures of the human body for specific drugs, there are also numerous well proven examples which no one will deny. Digitalis possesses an established reputation for its influence upon the heart—a specific or selective influence. In other words, an affinity exists between the sphere of the cardiac