A POPULAR TREATISE ON MEDICAL ELECTRICITY

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A Popular Treatise on Medical Electricity by Henry Woodward

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HENRY WOODWARD

A POPULAR TREATISE ON MEDICAL ELECTRICITY

Trieste

A POPULAR TREATISE

ON

MEDICAL ELECTRICITY;

SHOWING THE INFLUENCE OF

ELECTRICITY AS A REMEDY FOR DISEASES;

AND

PLAIN & PRACTICAL DIRECTIONS

FOR ITS APPLICATION TO VARIOUS DISORDERS.

BY

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Medical Electrician.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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UNWIN BROTHERS,

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PREFACE.

It is necessary, at the outset, to say that this little work does not pretend to do more than convey, in the simplest and clearest language possible, an outline of the advantages which may be gained from the proper use of Electricity, as a remedy for human diseases; and of the best practicable means whereby those who, from various causes, are unable or unwilling to employ a medical practitioner, may themselves apply this wonderful remedial and curative agent.

Not being intended for the medical profession (who already possess fully elaborate treatises in the scientific works of Julius Althaus, Roberts Bartholow, Moritz Meyer, Allan McLane Hamilton, G. V. Poore, A. C. Garratt, Charles E. Morgan, Herbert Tibbitts, G. B. Duchenne, and Drs. Beard and Rockwell, with others), the use of scientific and technical terms is avoided as far as possible; and where there is no escape from using them, their meaning is sufficiently explained.

The writer is fully convinced that, in many maladies, the symptoms are so clearly marked, and the mode of applying Electricity is so simple, and has been so thoroughly established by experience, that it may be safely employed by persons with a very moderate amount of knowledge, if they will use ordinary care, without recourse to a

medical practitioner. At the same time, he would be sorry to kindle a thought in the minds of his readers that it may be used by anyone who is ignorant, either of the effects produced by Electricity, of the nature of the human frame to which it is applied, or of the particular disease which they may propose to remedy by its use. Some elementary knowledge under each of these heads is absolutely necessary to its safe and effectual use. Such knowledge it is the object of the present little work to supply.

During the course of more than twenty years' successful practice in the United States and Canada, the writer, having experience of various kinds of Medical-Electric machines, has been led to effect certain improvements, in the direction both of efficiency and economy, which will be found fully described in the account of the "WOODWARD ELECTRO-MEDICAL MACHINE" in the pages following, and to which he begs to direct special attention.

20, MACFARLANE ROAD,
SHEPHERD'S BUSH, LONDON.

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ON

MEDICAL ELECTRICITY.

CHAPTER I.

THE NATURE OF ELECTRICITY (ELECTRO-PHYSICS).

If the question, "What is Electricity?" were propounded in its naked simplicity to the whole body of scientific men of the present day, their candid answer must be, "We don't know." It is not a substance, either solid, liquid, or gaseous. It can neither be handled, poured out, nor dissolved in vapour. It is without weight, and is invisible. For want of a better name it is called "a *force*." The early discoverers of Electricity supposed it to be a fluid, which, they said, permeated all bodies. This idea is no longer entertained, but yet the phrase "an electric *current*," which arose out of it, is still used, although somewhat incorrectly; and the force passes into and through bodies adapted thereto, just as though it actually were a "current" of the "electric fluid" as it was supposed to be. It is well, however, to understand at the beginning that although these terms