

**ON CEREBRIA AND
OTHER DISEASES OF
THE BRAIN**

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On Cerebria and Other Diseases of the Brain by Charles Elam

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BY
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ETC. ETC.



PHILADELPHIA
LINDSAY AND BLAKISTON.

1872

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P R E F A C E.

THE design of the following pages is to bring into notice, more prominently than has been done heretofore, the distinctive phenomena of Inflammation of the Substance of the Brain Tissue, as contrasted with similar affections of the membranes. Any further objects that I may have had in view are so fully set forth in the introductory chapter, that they require no recapitulation here.

Two of these chapters,—those on “Cerebria” and “Partial Acute Cerebritis,”—were read in abstract before the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society in the sessions of 1870 and 1871; the rest appears now for the first time.

It was my intention, as intimated near the close of the second chapter, to add an appendix on the inter-relations of Brain and Mind; but as in the body of the work I have treated the Brain almost exclusively in its physical relations, I have decided to defer such a discussion to some future occasion; when I hope to resume the subject in a more extended aspect.

75 HARLEY STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE,
May 1872.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

DURING the last thirty years there has been a very large increase in the mortality from "Diseases of the Brain." In the year 1839 there were 1495 deaths registered from this cause, and in 1869 there were 5517. Thus, whilst the population in England has increased 30 per cent, the mortality due to this cause has been multiplied nearly fourfold.

In the same period the deaths from Paralysis and Apoplexy have considerably more than doubled—viz., from about 10,000 annually to 22,000 in the nearest round numbers. The deaths from "Insanity" have also nearly doubled.

The causes for this portentous phenomenon are not mysterious, nor far to seek; nor, when found, are they difficult to understand. The great development of railway and telegraphic communication has resulted in an enormous increase of business transactions, entailing a vast augmentation of the cares, worries, and anxieties of life. The brain, receptive of all impressions, and originating all volitional impulses, has a double load to bear in the economy. The "struggle for life" is ever increasingly severe; every throe of this struggle implies disintegration and waste of brain tissue; and whilst the chances of irregularity or disorder in the nutritive changes increase in a geometrical ratio, the increase of disease is a logical sequence.

It is interesting to trace an illustration of these principles in the correspondence of sudden increases in the rates of mortality with the social and commercial disorders of certain epochs. No one will find any difficulty in recalling the convulsions that agitated the commercial world in the years 1845 and 1846. Bear-