

**HYSTERIA. REMOTE CAUSES OF
DISEASES IN GENERAL. TREATMENT
OF DISEASE BY TONIC AGENCY.
LOCAL OR SURGICAL FORMS OF
HYSTERIA. SIX LECTURES**

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Hysteria. Remote Causes of Diseases in General. Treatment of Disease by Tonic Agency. Local or Surgical Forms of Hysteria. Six Lectures by F. C. Skey

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F. C. SKEY

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HYSTERIA.

Remote Causes of Disease in General. Treatment of
Disease by Tonic Agency. Local or Sur-
gical Forms of Hysteria, etc.

SIX LECTURES,

DELIVERED

TO THE STUDENTS OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, 1866.

BY

F. C. SKEY, F.R.S.

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TO

THE MEMORY OF

SIR BENJAMIN COLLINS BRODIE, BART., P. C. L.

"THE GREATEST OF MODERN SURGEONS."

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P R E F A C E .

THE following Lectures were delivered to the Students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and they are now published at their request and for their instruction.

If any members of older growth fail in knowledge of matters so essential as those I have discussed, however unskilfully I may have treated them, the sooner they enter on the path of inquiry the better.

It is in the nature of scientific inquiry to intermingle error with the truth. Our faculties, however cultivated, cannot penetrate the recesses in which are concealed the more precious gems of perfect knowledge, the value and even the nature of which are variously appreciated by different observers. Hence opposite deductions and contradictory opinions.

The majority of our profession are biassed in favor of depletive measures. They consider diseases to originate in excess of vitality, and to be the product of undue force ; I have endeavored to show that they far more commonly arise from reduced or exhausted power. A weak condition of the animal body is intelligible enough, but an abnormal condition warranting a reduction of vital power by artificial agency I cannot understand.

We talk of "increased heat," of "increased action," of "excitement," and so on, as demanding a reduction or a lowering of the vital powers; while it is notorious that intense heat of skin is the frequent attendant on the last hours of life, and who will venture to treat the "excitement" of *delirium tremens* by any agent less potent than alcohol or opium?

The great machine of Medical knowledge, however, is moving onward in the direction of truth.

On a line between the antagonistic principles of the schools of Cullen and of Brown the Profession will eventually take its stand—at a point, I suspect, far nearer to Brown than to Cullen. This is the natural reaction following on years of error.

The palpable confusion between diseases of the vascular and of the nervous systems which has so long prevailed is but evidence of the same error.

Whether the sketch I have drawn be overcharged—for it does not affect the pretension of a finished picture—I leave to be determined by others.

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