

**CONSUMPTION AND THE
BREATH REBREATHEd: BEING
A SEQUEL TO THE AUTHOR'S
TREATISE ON CONSUMPTION**

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Consumption and the Breath Rebreathed: Being a Sequel to the Author's Treatise on
Consumption by Henry Mac Cormac

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HENRY MAC CORMAC

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CONSUMPTION.

BY

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OF HUMAN NATURE, ASPIRATIONS FROM THE INNER LIFE,
MORAL SANITARY ECONOMY, AND OTHER WORKS.

LONDON:
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1872.

PREFACE.

THE theory set forth in these pages is calculated, the author believes, to shed a light on the phenomena of tubercular consumptive disease which the last two thousand years have failed to do. Never were these phenomena rendered thus intelligible before. Each objection has been fairly met and, it is submitted, fully answered. The evidence adduced is in perfect accordance with natural laws, laws which cannot be safely evaded or set aside. Disaster disease and premature death indeed, precede follow and attend us when we disobey them. Nowhere have facts been distorted to meet a theory, on the contrary, the theory is shown to be everywhere in accordance with facts. The evidence in truth is at once direct and circumstantial and, the more closely it is scrutinised the more fully, the author hopes, will its conclusiveness be admitted by each inquiring intelligence and candid mind. It is of pressing moment that it should be so. The great interests of humanity require it. Never per-

haps has anything so important claimed the attention of the profession and the world. For let us consider, it is nothing less than the utter extinction of consumptive tubercular disease which is at issue. And without a doubt, the same strenuous, persistent, well directed effort which has enabled us to cast off so many other ills will, when adequately roused, rid us of this infliction also, the greatest, most devastating and yet perhaps most preventible of them all.

THE AUTHOR.

BELFAST. *February*, 1872.

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INTRODUCTION.

"Quand'on entreprend les grandes nouveautés, quand on veut produire une doctrine supérieure à la science commune, il faut s'attendre à se voir contester même la science commune, et le mérite ordinaire est toujours refusé à qui fait preuve d'un mérite extraordinaire."—O. DE REMUSAT, *Revue des Deux Mondes*, t. xviii, p. 20.

"Tout est individuel dans le domaine de l'esprit. Les grandes découvertes ont toujours été faites par des esprits solitaires."—A. LAUGEL, *Id.*, t. xxi, p. 370.

I ENTERTAIN no colour of doubt, assuming only the zealous cooperation of medical men and of the intelligent public, that the same arrest might be effected in respect of consumption that has already been consummated, or partially consummated, in regard of smallpox. Unless indeed we assert, which few will be disposed to do nowadays, that evils are made to be submitted to instead of overcome, consumption might and, I maintain, ought to be not only thrust out of our midst, but extinguished over the earths entire surface as well. To compass however an achievement so momentous would need the combined energies of numerous workers, the protracted toil of many years. In view then of a result so desirable the sooner the business is taken in hand