

**A TREATISE ON
CANCER, AND
ITS TREATMENT**

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A Treatise on Cancer, and Its Treatment by J. Weldon Fell

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ITS TREATMENT**

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TREATISE ON CANCER,

AND ITS TREATMENT.

BY

J. WELDON FELL, M.D.

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

LATE RESIDENT FELLOW OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE;
AUTHOR OF "TREATMENT OF TYPHUS BY HYPOPHOSPHITE,"
ETC.



LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

MDCCCLVII.

1857

TO

ALEXANDER SHAW,
CAMPBELL DE MORGAN,
CHARLES H. MOORE, &
MITCHELL HENRY, ESQ^{MS.}

THE DISTINGUISHED, LIBERAL, AND EMINENTLY PRACTICAL SURGICAL STAFF
OF THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL;

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FOR THEIR UNIFORM KINDNESS AND VALUABLE ASSISTANCE

DURING HIS CONNECTION WITH THEM,

THIS SMALL WORK

Is Respectfully Inscribed,

BY THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE object of the following pages is to bring before the Medical Profession a new, and what I believe to be an entirely original mode of treating the disease of Cancer in all its various forms. When I determined to commence this practice in London, my first impulse was to make it public at once, either by publishing a work upon it, or by giving it in detail to one of the medical journals of the day; but circumstances, added to reflection and the advice of some medical friends, induced me to depart from this course. Among the reasons are the following:—

1st. Any book or paper written by a stranger, whatever information it might contain, is almost sure to be passed over with neglect.

2nd. Unless the mode of preparing and applying the remedies is well understood, they might be applied in cases where they would have no beneficial effect, and thereby bring them into disrepute.

3rd. It often happens that when a remedy or mode of treatment of importance has been introduced by one unknown to the profession, it has been adopted by some leading man, and in many cases the originator is entirely lost sight of.

After carefully considering all the circumstances, I determined to defer making the remedies and their method of application public, until such time as I should be recognised as the originator of them; and I am glad to say that I think this time has already come, and that I can now publish my plan; for the approbation of many medical gentlemen, and the gratitude of a multitude of cured patients have now placed it on such a broad basis of facts (and I hold that facts are everything in medicine), that it cannot well be either plagiarized, or the credit due to me disputed.

For the past year and a half my consulting rooms have been open every Tuesday to the Medical Profession, for the purpose of exhibiting to them my method of treatment, and I am proud to say that during this period over one hundred members of the profession—some of them the leading and most justly celebrated in the country—have visited me, and nearly all of them have spoken of it in the highest terms, and have treated me with the greatest

liberality and politeness. I was, however, somewhat surprised to find in the *Lancet* of February 14th an article written by a gentleman who had been a constant visitor during a period of six months to my rooms, who had seen my treatment in all its stages, and who had been profuse in his expressions of admiration, in which my method (except the material used) is described, but in which paper he forgot to mention me or his visits to my rooms; but as the controversy between him and the gentlemen connected with him in his first efforts has enlightened the profession upon this point, I shall leave it for them to judge the matter.

I have also heard that some of my visitors, taking advantage of my confidence, succeeded in carrying away some of my remedies; but even a *hospital* analysis failed to detect the vegetable portion of them: this I am also willing to leave to the liberal and highminded of the British profession, confident, from what I have seen of them, of the soundness of their judgment.

Some time since I received a communication from the Board of Governors of the Middlesex Hospital, asking me upon what terms I would make a trial of my method of treatment in the cancer wards of that charity, and after due reflection I proposed to them

certain conditions, which were recommended by the liberal Medical Committee, and at once unanimously and without reserve accepted by the Board.

My first applications were made to patients in the Hospital on the 22nd of January last, with what success may be learned by reading the following report of the Surgical Staff, made March 18th, 1857:—

THE undersigned, being the Surgical Staff of the Middlesex Hospital, have much pleasure in complying with Dr. Fell's request that they should furnish him with a report upon his treatment of certain cases of cancer under their charge in the Middlesex Hospital.

They have learned with great satisfaction that Dr. Fell's object in obtaining this report is, that he may embody it in a work now on the eve of publication, in which he intends to disclose the peculiarities of his method of treatment to the profession.

Before proceeding further, the undersigned consider it due to themselves, to their professional brethren, and to Dr. Fell, to state the general terms upon which, in compliance with the desire of the benevolent founder of the Cancer Establishment of the Middlesex Hospital, the Medical Committee felt it their duty to recommend to the executive authorities, that that gentleman should be allowed to pursue his plan of treatment under their superintendence in the wards.