

**LEUCORRHŒA; OR, THE
"WHITES": A TREATISE UPON THE
MOST COMMON OF THE MORBID
DISCHARGES PECULIAR TO
WOMEN**

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Leucorrhœa; Or, the "whites": A Treatise Upon the Most Common of the Morbid Discharges
Peculiar to women by G. H. Darwin

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G. H. DARWIN

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A TREATISE UPON THE MOST COMMON
OF THE MORBID DISCHARGES
PECULIAR TO WOMEN.

BY

G. H. DARWIN,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURG, ETC., ETC.
FELLOW OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY, LONDON, ETC.

JOHN HEYWOOD,
DEANSGATE AND RIDGEFIELD, MANCHESTER;
AND 11, PATERNOSTER BUILDINGS,
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PREFACE.

It may be said, and truly too, that the subject of Leucorrhœa is well and fully treated on in all the several works on "Diseases of Women." But, as Coleridge says, "Great books are not in everybody's reach; and though it is better to know them thoroughly than to know them only here and there, yet it is a good work, to give a little, to those, who have neither time nor means, to get more."

*"Α οί φίλοι τοῖς—οὐ θαρροῦσι
παρανεῖν ταῦτα ἐν ταις βιβλίαις γέγραπται."*

PLUTARCH.

The advice which their friends have not the courage to give—
is found written in books.

THE CEDARS,
ALBERT PARK, DIDSBURY,
February, 1886.

CARLTON CHAMBERS,
18, ST. ANN'S STREET,
MANCHESTER.

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THE
CAUSES, VARIETIES, AND TREATMENT
OF
LEUCORRHŒA.

CHAPTER I.

THE CAUSES.

LEUCORRHŒA (*λευκός*, white, and *ῥέω*, I flow) or "the whites" is the name commonly given to a number of discharges from the genital organs of the human female, which vary considerably in their quality, their source of origin, their symptomatic signification, and their pathological generation. So frequently are these discharges present, and so little is their true signification realised by those who are themselves the subjects, that it is frequently the experience of the gynæcologist, to find, when he is consulted for some serious uterine disease, that this symptom of the morbid condition of that organ has been present for a very long time, and has occasioned little or no uneasiness to the patient, until some accessory symptom, pain, or inconvenience, has compelled her to seek advice. "Only the whites," is a phrase often heard from the lips of women, who are probably by their neglect of a few simple rules and precautions, laying for themselves the foundation of a life of misery and disappointment. The evolution of the highest development of the female character, the cultivation of the graces of motherhood, and the love and nurture of children—to whom, in later years, we can look to cherish and succour ourselves,—the fulfilment of the duties of wifehood, the happiness of a home, and the whole fabric of a life, may depend on a neglected leucorrhœa! How important, then, does it become, that every woman should know something of the nature of these discharges, and their true origin and signification; that she may not only guard her own health and comfort, but also, that she may spread knowledge among others of her sex who

may be dependent upon her for care, guidance, and advice? It is not only in adult life, or in the married state, that these conditions may arise; at no age can the female be said to be exempt from these troubles, from the very earliest infancy, down to extreme old age; but as the period of greatest activity of the various organs concerned in their production is that of young adult life, and in the state of marriage, so it is at this period, and in that condition, that they are most frequent. Leucorrhœa is most frequent during pregnancy, indeed, so commonly is it present during some part of this physiological condition, that it is probable that no woman passes through her whole life, at all events no married woman, without having at some time or other suffered from some variety of this flux. Dr. James Whitehead, late of this city, found that out of two thousand pregnant women, one thousand one hundred and sixteen were suffering from some form of leucorrhœa at the time of examination, and a considerable number of them, who were at that time free from the discharge, had previously suffered from it. It is extremely common to find that this symptom has appeared within a few weeks after marriage, and the question of the exciting cause becomes one of very great importance and delicacy, often involving the peace and happiness of more than one family. It is quite evident, that under perfectly normal and natural conditions no such result should follow marriage. The relations of husband and wife are natural and physiological, and no abnormal result should follow their gratification within the limits of temperate and moderate indulgence. Let us, then, endeavour to examine into the real causes of these consequences, and to point out how they may be avoided, and these injurious results prevented. It is no doubt the fact, that in certain cases the discharge which occurs soon after marriage is due to fault in the husband, and depends upon a contagion derived from some affection, perhaps latent in his system, or of which he may have deemed himself to have been cured; but in by far the larger number of these cases the causes are entirely different, and in very many depend upon conditions, which are the results of habits, and modes of life and clothing, to which women are subject; again, a strong husband exercises his newly acquired privileges with too little regard for the weakness of his more delicately-constituted companion, and the result is an over-stimulation, and excessive excitement, of the organs concerned, which is made evident by the presence