

**OF NATURE AND
ART IN THE CURE OF
DISEASE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649655472

Of Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease by Sir John Forbes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SIR JOHN FORBES

**OF NATURE AND
ART IN THE CURE OF
DISEASE**

OF
NATURE AND ART
IN THE
CURE OF DISEASE

BY
SIR JOHN FORBES, M.D., D.C.L. (OXON), F.R.S.,
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN TO THE
QUEEN'S HOUSEHOLD, ETC., ETC.

"— Quibusdam saltem profutura Tironibus; quos ut per viarum tatisissimarum
compendia ad saluberrimæ artis deducam cognitionem, allaborandam præcipuè duxi;
hos docere, his scribere, animus erat, non Eruditis non Doctoribus; qui enim tam
sim vanus, ut erudire eruditos ipse minime eruditus præsumam?"

SECOND EDITION

LONDON:
JOHN CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

MDCCLVIII.





J. K. ADLARD, PRINTER, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

THE exhaustion of the First Edition of this little work, within the short period of eight months, is gratifying to the author chiefly as an indication that it has not been overlooked by those to whom he thought it might be useful. It is now reprinted without any alterations or additions, in the hope that, very imperfect as it is, it may be the means of still further good to his younger brethren and to the educated classes generally.

LONDON ; *December 1st, 1857.*

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE
FIRST EDITION.

THE manuscript from which this small volume is extracted has lain by me for several years, and is still incomplete. The present portion of it is now published separately, because I believe it will be useful even in its actual fragmentary form, and because advancing years leave me but slight hopes of being ever able to finish the work according to the original plan. It is thought that the general views here given will enable such junior practitioners as may study them, to apply them, of their own accord, to the improvement of their treatment of diseases; by strengthening their confidence in Nature's powers, and by mitigating, in their hands, the evils of Polypharmacy and of that meddlesome and perturbative practice still so predominant in this country.

It is my intention, on some future occasion, to publish another volume of the same size as the present, consisting of the original article "On Homœopathy, Allopathy, and Young Physic," written by me in 1845; together with a selection from the correspondence elicited by it, at the time, from my medical friends. The first of these papers will be found in No. XLI of the 'British and Foreign Medical Review' (then edited by me), and the remainder in the three subsequent numbers of the same journal. This additional volume, though it will afford considerable support to the author's views as promulgated in the present work, will still leave the subject in a very incomplete state.

J. F.

LONDON; *February 1st, 1857.*

C O N T E N T S.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
The Author's Reasons for writing and publishing this Volume (Introductory)	1

CHAPTER II.

Of the Ignorance existing respecting the power of Nature to cure Diseases (Introductory)	10
---	----

CHAPTER III.

General Notions of Diseases	44
---------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Causes, Mode of Production, and Nature of Diseases .	64
---	----

CHAPTER V.

Of the Course or Progress of Diseases	87
---	----

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI.	
Of the Natural Terminations of Diseases, and the modes in which they take place	107
CHAPTER VII.	
Evidence in favour of the Curability of Diseases by Nature .	134
CHAPTER VIII.	
Of the Existence and General Nature of the Medical Art .	172
CHAPTER IX.	
Instruments of the Medical Art	188
CHAPTER X.	
Of the Mode of Action of the Instruments of the Medical Art: Direct and Specific Action	206
CHAPTER XI.	
Of the Mode of Action of the Instruments of the Medical Art: Indirect or Vicarious Action	228
CHAPTER XII.	
General Estimate of the Powers of the Medical Art	252

OF
NATURE AND ART
IN THE
CURE OF DISEASE.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE AUTHOR'S REASONS FOR WRITING AND PUBLISHING THIS
VOLUME.

I. ALL well-informed and experienced members of the medical profession are painfully aware of the great imperfections of their Art, and of its inadequacy to fulfil, in a satisfactory manner, much that it professes and undertakes to accomplish. It must be admitted, however, at the same time, that this recognition of its defects is accompanied by an ardent desire, and by incessant efforts, on the part of its professors, to lessen and remove them. It may, indeed, be truly said of the professors of the medical art generally, that a lively zeal for the