

**A TREATISE ON THE CHRONIC  
INFLAMMATION AND  
DISPLACEMENTS OF THE  
UNIMPREGNATED UTERUS**

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A Treatise on the Chronic Inflammation and Displacements of the Unimpregnated Uterus by  
Wm. H. Byford

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**WM. H. BYFORD**

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A TREATISE  
ON  
THE CHRONIC INFLAMMATION  
AND  
DISPLACEMENTS  
OF THE  
UNIMPREGNATED UTERUS.

BY

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COLLEGE; AUTHOR OF "THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY APPLIED TO THE  
DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS INCIDENT TO WOMEN," ETC., ETC.

SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1871

TO  
JOSEPH MADDUX, M.D.,  
THIS WORK IS  
**Dedicated,**  
AS A GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE  
FOR THE MANY INVALUABLE AND TIMELY ACTS OF KINDNESS  
BESTOWED UPON THE  
AUTHOR.

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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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IN preparing the Second Edition of "Chronic Inflammation and Displacements of the Unimpregnated Uterus," it has been the object of the author to add to its usefulness by thoroughly revising and correcting, enlarging and illustrating it. The experience of the profession in the last six years has been sought after, and as faithfully represented as practicable in a work of so limited extent, written under the pressure of many engagements, and much other work. In the lapse of time since the first edition was written, the author's observations have served to confirm the general tenor of the doctrines taught at that time, in reference to the sympathetic influence of the uterus, and the effects of local treatment in the cure of the secondary affections thus arising. And he has been careful to modify the local measures recommended when thought best, and add such additional resources in treatment as have been proven to be useful.

CHICAGO, January, 1871.

DISEASES  
OF THE  
UNIMPREGNATED UTERUS.

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CHAPTER I.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THERE is a large list of symptoms called nervous, or sympathetic, which, although not exclusively confined to women, are more frequently found to manifest themselves in them. They were formerly regarded either as independent affections, or as having various sources of origin; and although hysterical was the term usually applied to them in some of their manifestations, it was not definitely known in what manner they originated. Patient investigation in late years has given us more definite and correct notions of them, and we have come to regard them as nearly always dependent on trouble of some kind in the sexual system. Medical men, however, are not united in their opinion that the symptoms alluded to are thus caused; and they are divided into two well-defined parties with respect to uterine pathology.

1st. There are those who believe that the uterus has very little sympathetic influence in the system; that the diseases of that organ are more frequently the result of diseases in other organs, than of independent origin; that the symptoms accompanying, and almost always found in connection with actual lesion of the uterus, do not at all depend upon this organ; that these symptoms may be cured without any attention to the con-

dition of the uterus, and in fact, whatever cures them, almost always cures the affections of that organ.

2d. The other party holds the opinion that the sexual system of the female, in a state of disease, exercises a very morbid influence over nearly the whole organization. That this morbid influence is particularly exerted over the spinal and cerebral nervous systems; and that the only sure and permanent relief is found in the cure of the disordered condition of the uterus.

Those who adhere to the latter view may be classified under two subdivisions: one of which holds that the sympathetic influence of the uterus is only manifested when that organ is inflamed or ulcerated, and that the cure of the inflammation and ulceration relieves the symptoms. The other maintains that inflammation and ulceration are only of slight, if indeed of any importance; while the cause of all the difficulty is some sort of displacement.

It will probably surprise the student when he is told that all these diverse and various opinions are held by gynecologists of equal eminence, integrity, and opportunity for observation. There is reason for surprise in this consideration, and yet this same diversity of opinion exists in all departments of medicine: for example, as to the nature and treatment of inflammation; as to the essential nature of typhoid fever and its treatment; as to the local or general origin of cancer, and the propriety of extirpation. How can this discrepancy be accounted for? It is not my purpose to answer this question at length, but merely to indicate a few obvious considerations, of which one is, that the attention of medical men has been too recently directed with sufficient intensity to the points involved, to enable it to make an induction full enough to convince by its results all the members of the profession of the correctness of any one view. This, therefore, is just the time when we meet with conservatism in the views of temperate and judicious investigators, as well as with the less laudable conservatism of those who have lived too long to improve. Another consideration is, that while judicious practitioners hold antagonistic opinions as to the nature of diseases, they pursue so nearly the same line of practice as to lead to similar results in the treatment of them. A third consideration relates to the power of prejudice, which forms in