

**CHOREA AND
WHOOPING-COUGH:
FIVE LECTURES**

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Chorea and Whooping-Cough: Five Lectures by Octavius Sturges

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FIVE LECTURES

BY
OCTAVIUS STURGES, M.D.

PHYSICIAN TO THE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL
ASSISTANT-PHYSICIAN TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

* No arrangement is so clear or practically so useful as one which connects the morbid actions with the natural and healthy functions of the same parts. The former grow gradually out of the latter; and though presenting in this morbid state many peculiar modifications, yet are there none which may not be referred, directly or indirectly, to some equivalent phenomenon of healthy action.—SIR H. HOLLAND, *Notes and Reflections* (second edition, 1840), p. 334



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ADVERTISEMENT.

OF the following Lectures, the four on Chorea were delivered at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street and formed part of a course which it is the custom for the medical officers to give in turn during each summer session. The Lecture on Whooping-cough was given at the Westminster Hospital in the ordinary routine of clinical teaching at a time when several examples of the affection happened to be in the wards. This account of their origin makes it unnecessary to add that the Lectures do not aim at giving a complete or systematic account of the diseases they discuss.

Christmas 1877.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	ix

CHOREA.

LECTURE I.

DESCRIPTION AND MODE OF ORIGIN.

Definition—Varieties—Essential characters of Chorea—Con- nection with rheumatism—With mental disturbance	1
---	---

LECTURE II.

MUSCULO-MENTAL PHENOMENA.

Extreme Chorea--The order of muscular invasion—Association with emotion-spasm--With over-stillness--With heart-dis- turbance—The expression of emotion at various ages-- Application in disease	26
--	----

LECTURE III.

LAWS OF ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.

	PAGE
Chorea compared with emotional over-movement—Absence of mental disturbance—Long duration—Lingering Chorea of early childhood—Severity of the disease at puberty—Incurable Chorea of adults—The order of muscular stability—Implication of the heart in childhood	53

LECTURE IV.

PATHOLOGY OF CHOREA.—TREATMENT.

Impaired muscular control the immediate cause of Chorea—Anatomical lesions its consequence—Analogy of the passions—General principles of treatment—The employment of drugs—Of restraint	81
---	----

WHOOPING-COUGH.

The factors of Whooping-cough—Their apparent incompatibility—Analysis of phenomena—The nervous element—The contagious element—General conclusions—Treatment	103
---	-----

APPENDIX.

<i>THE STARTING-PLACE OF CHOREA</i>	139
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INTRODUCTION.

IT is part of the design of the following pages to place chorea and whooping-cough in the category of functional derangements. Whether or not this object is accomplished the Lectures themselves must be left to show. Yet, inasmuch as the word 'functional,' when applied to disease, is regarded by many as an evasive expression, useful only as a cloak for ignorance, I would say something here in anticipation of this preliminary objection, and endeavour to show that the term (whether applicable, or not, in the present case) is both necessary and expressive.

If the animal functions were performed always after one pattern, every deviation from which could be certainly recognised by a corresponding tissue-change, the definition of disease would be easy and precise. In the actual circumstances, however, the line which separates it from disordered function is

in great measure arbitrary. Variations in function, which are temporary and occasional, depend upon material causes no less than do the several phases of what we choose to call disease; and, if anyone should say that this latter term becomes appropriate so soon as the structure-change becomes appreciable by the senses, such a description implies that the point of division is continually shifting, as the means and opportunities of observation multiply. Thus functional disease signifies no more than the imperfection of our search for the material basis of bodily derangement; it occupies that interval, which it is the main object of pathology to abridge, between the earliest recognition of disorder in act, and the earliest discovery of the structural change on which it depends.

But while the term 'functional' implies a limited knowledge of disease, it is by no means to be admitted as the expression of mere ignorance. On the contrary, it indicates the nature of the morbid phenomena to which it is applied in the fittest terms at the time available. It is to be considered that the aberrations from normal life which constitute disease are no more susceptible