

THE STOMACH AND ITS DIFFICULTIES

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The Stomach and its Difficulties by James Eyre

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JAMES EYRE

**THE STOMACH AND
ITS DIFFICULTIES**

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AND

ITS DIFFICULTIES.

BY

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CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JAMES'S DISPENSARY;
AUTHOR OF "PRACTICAL REMARKS ON SOME EXHAUSTING
DISEASES."

"In primis oculis hend; hanc vixit res
Ut noceret homini, credas, memorem illius esom,
Quae, simplex, olim tibi sederit: at simul aenis
Miscueris elixa, simul concylius tardis,
Dulcis se in bilem vertent, stomachoque tumultum
Lenta ferat pituita."

HORAT. SAT. L. II. 2, 71-75.



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MDCCLII.

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In affectionate Remembrance
OF
JOHN ABERNETHY,
THE PROFOUND PHILOSOPHER,
THE HIGHLY-GIFTED INSTRUCTOR,
THE REVERED AND BELOVED OF HIS PUPILS
IN LIFE AS IN DEATH,
THE FOLLOWING CURSORY REMARKS
ON HIS FAVOURITE SUBJECT,
FOUNDED ON HIS ENLIGHTENED PRINCIPLES,
AND CONFIRMED
BY THE RESULTS OF EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE,
Are dutifully Inscribed
BY A MEMBER OF HIS* CLASS OF
1812—13.

* See Appendix.

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1852

P R E F A C E.

It is long since I promised to give to the public the result of my long continued observations on the Digestive Organs; the study of which has been always, to me, replete with interest; and now that I have renounced nocturnal professional avocations, I am the more qualified, by calm reflection and undisturbed consideration, to watch the ever-varying phases of that most important viscus, the *Stomach*; which, when it duly furnishes its pure functional secretions, is, like the fire, invaluable,—as a Slave, but otherwise becomes a mischievous and dangerous, because powerful Despot! It is either, like the “vernal airs” which move the teeming clouds that usher “gentle Spring,” mildly, but munificently, by the soft-stealing showers, refreshing and vivifying the earth; or, on the contrary, it resembles the rude and turbulent violence of elemental strife,—disrob-

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ing and devastating, by its impetuous fury, all that arrests its violent course. Be it, then, henceforth, my daily study to minister to "The Difficulties of the Stomach"—that Pandora's Box—the *fons et origo*—the source of so many of our corporeal and some of our mental susceptibilities! Understand me not, however, as meaning to herald these Practical Remarks in deprecation of severe criticism—by declarations of modest, but unfelt, unfitness for the task I have undertaken. On the contrary, I come forward, with all due but not superfluous humility, to offer some of the results of a long life of diligent inquiry to the consideration of the Profession to which I have the honour to belong, totally free from any anxious misgivings as to the *result*; for I anticipate a *third* kind and cordial welcome from my brethren,—founding my expectation on the full assurance that they love Truth for its own sake; and will be pleased to see, in this undertaking, not merely the lucubrations of others, dapperly arranged and paraded for display, but those which have been seized, digested; and carefully hoarded up for *use*—being the fruits

of my own occasional gleanings at the bed-side or in the consulting-room—following therein, though *passibus non æquis*, the example of the Surgical Instructor of my very earliest years, Sir Benjamin Brodie; to whom, on my having expressed (in a note, two or three years ago) my opinion that his Lectures were greatly prized by my fellow-pupils so long back as forty years ago, says (and this I have his full permission here to publish), “I have *myself wondered* that, with so little experience as I then had, my Lectures should have been popular with the students. I believe that the explanation is, that, although I had not much information to give, what I did give was drawn chiefly from my own written notes of cases, so that I communicated my own knowledge, and not that copied from books.” Some may think that the *style* of my work is not sufficiently *grave*; and that the introduction occasionally of a lively anecdote is hardly defensible when treating on the serious subject of Disease. Others, again, may say that the *rules* which are here laid down for the preservation of health are so stringent, that it is impossible to carry them out