

**FISTULA, HAEMORRHOIDS,  
PAINFUL ULCER, STRICTURE,  
PROLAPSUS, AND OTHER  
DISEASES OF THE RECTUM: THEIR  
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649584543

Fistula, Haemorrhoids, Painful Ulcer, Stricture, Prolapsus, and Other Diseases of the Rectum:  
Their Diagnosis and Treatment by William Allingham

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**WILLIAM ALLINGHAM**

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DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

BY

WILLIAM ALLINGHAM, M.D.,

Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Surgeon to St. Mark's  
Hospital for Fistula and Other Diseases of the Rectum, &c.

FOURTH REVISED AND ENLARGED EDITION.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



NEW YORK:  
BERMINGHAM & CO., UNION SQUARE.

1882.

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## PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

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That this book has not been written in vain, appears to be evidenced by the facts, that three large editions have been sold in this country and in England, that it has been translated into the French, Italian, Spanish and Russian languages, and that a fourth edition is now demanded, the third having long been exhausted. An endeavor has been made to remove obscurities, correct errors, and revise generally, without much enlarging the work. An Index is added, which it is hoped will facilitate reference.

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# DISEASES OF THE RECTUM.

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

Rectal diseases are among the most common that affect civilized humanity. They are of rare occurrence in barbarous countries. From information obtained when traveling in South Africa, I have reason to believe that the natives of that part of the world very seldom suffer from these affections, but some of my medical friends practicing in India, and also in China, have informed me that the natives of those countries are not exempt, and that severe cases of various kinds of rectal disease are not uncommon. The native doctors, treat bleeding piles by thrusting red-hot skewers into the centre of each tumor. It is curious that a somewhat similar plan has been recently advocated by a London surgeon. Food and alcohol, sedentary indoor occupations, and defects in clothing, have much influence in the causation of these maladies, which though not actually dangerous to life, certainly give rise to a vast amount of suffering, by which I mean not only pain, but also the distress arising from inability to work for daily bread. Both laborious and sedentary occupations are often rendered almost unendurable.

It is true that the majority of these affections are very amenable to proper treatment; the amount of benefit that can be conferred by a well skilled surgeon is really remarkable; but there is the opposite proposition to be considered. When diseases of the rectum are neglected, or when the surgeon prescribes confection of senna and gall-ointment in every case cures do not frequently result.

An accurate diagnosis in rectal diseases is all important, and to prescribe for patients suffering from these maladies without examining them, both ocularly and digitally, is not