

**ASTHMA, CONSIDERED
SPECIALLY IN RELATION
TO NASAL DISEASE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649500581

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TO
NASAL DISEASE

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LONDON
H. K. LEWIS, 136 GOWER STREET, W.C.

1890
EY

PRINTED BY
H. K. LEWIS, 135 GOWER STREET
LONDON, W.C.

L739
S35
1890

PREFACE.

THIS essay is an English edition of a book published in Danish in the spring of this year in Copenhagen.

It must be considered as an attempt to show how far diseases of the nasal cavity may affect asthmatic attacks.

It is thought that PROF. HACK's opinions were in this respect too exaggerated, and ought therefore to be considerably modified, and in treating upon the subject this end has been kept in view.

THE AUTHOR.

COPENHAGEN.

December, 1889.

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ASTHMA.

INTRODUCTION.

ASTHMA is a complaint which is mentioned in the oldest writings, but the name of Asthma was given to all kinds of diseases, if accompanied by difficulty in breathing; this caused a great confusion of ideas, which it took centuries to correct.

According to *Bergson*,* the Bible (Exodus) mentions a disease which must be looked upon as Asthma. According to the same author, *Homer* and *Herodotus* also knew the complaint, and advised those who suffered from Asthma to use warm sand baths. In the works of *Hippocrates* Asthma is mentioned several times, and he gives the name of Asthma to all respiratory difficulties that are accompanied by accelerated breathing. *Celsus* distinguishes between dyspnœa, asthma and orthopnœa; dyspnœa being the milder form of the complaint, orthopnœa the more severe. *Arætaus* gives an exact description of asthmatic attacks, and separates only asthma and dyspnœa, regarding orthopnœa as a symptom of asthma. From this time up to the middle ages *Galen's* opinions were in this case, as everywhere else in medicine, predominant. He knew only dyspnœa, whose subordinates are orthopnœa and apnœa.

It was only towards the end of the 17th century, that *Willisius* established the category of *nervous spastic asthma*,†

* *Bergson*, Das krampfhaft Asthma der Erwachsenen, Nordhausen, 1850.

† See *Ramadge*, Asthma, London, 1835, p. 86.