

**ON PARALYSIS IN INFANCY,  
CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH, AND  
ON THE PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT OF PARALYTIC  
DEFORMITIES**

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On Paralysis in Infancy, Childhood and Youth, and on the Prevention and Treatment of  
Paralytic Deformities by Mathias Roth

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**MATHIAS ROTH**

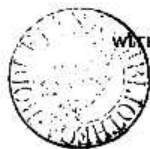
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PREVENTION AND TREATMENT  
OF  
PARALYTIC DEFORMITIES.

BY  
DR. MATHIAS ROTH,

AUTHOR OF SEVERAL WORKS ON THE MOVEMENT-CURE, LATERAL CURVATURE,  
ETC. ETC.



WITH FORTY-FIVE ENGRAVINGS.

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Dedicated to  
DR. R. E. DUDGEON,  
AS A  
TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP AND GRATITUDE,  
BY  
THE AUTHOR.

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MY DEAR DR. DUDGEON,

In 1849 the Austrians, defeated in the battle near Tallya, evacuated Kassa\* in the greatest hurry, leaving from 800 to 1000 sick and wounded Austrian and Hungarian soldiers behind them to the mercy of the Hungarian authorities, at whose request the professional men of the little town took charge of these unhappy soldiers, who had neither medicines, food, nor any other comfort. After having attended to a part of these wounded for a short time, I had to proceed to the seat of government, to obtain the necessary power for acting as Inspector-General of Hospitals.

It happened by chance that at the same time the government wanted to send somebody abroad, and I was entrusted with a confidential mission. Being obliged to pass the lines

\* *Read* Kassa.

of the enemy, I was arrested, imprisoned, and while the political prosecution instituted against me was still pending the Russian invasion crushed the Hungarian cause.

In consequence of these events, after nine years of successful practice, I was obliged, as an exile, without means and introductions, to recommence, in a foreign country, a medical career. At that time you and several of my colleagues received the exile very kindly, encouraged me to remain in this country, and when, at the advice of an intelligent layman, I had chosen a speciality, you were the first to give me a proof of your confidence by placing some of your patients under my care. Your example was followed by other colleagues, and I am happy to have now an opportunity of publicly expressing to you and to them my gratitude for the kindness, the friendship, and the confidence bestowed during the past twenty years on

Yours, very sincerely,

M. ROTH.



## P R E F A C E.

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THE study of paralytic affections in infancy and childhood, and of the deformities they cause, has been and is still much neglected. Many young practitioners begin their professional life without having had an opportunity of watching the treatment of these complaints, which require medicinal, surgical, dynamical, and hygienic means, as well as a good amount of patience and perseverance.

This treatise, although very incomplete, gives a short outline of some forms of the disease, and of the treatment which has hitherto proved tolerably successful. Thus, I hope it will be of some use to my younger professional brethren, and to such practitioners as have no time to read monographs written in foreign languages, and other works on a class of complaints which, neglected at, or soon after their invasion, have often an injurious effect for life.

I am convinced, and wish others may share my conviction, that a large number, probably the majority of deformities existing amongst infants, children and youths, can be prevented by a judicious management at the right

period, and that many a paralysed or deformed patient can be saved—

1. From being victimised by that class of orthopædic or other surgeons, whose panacea is but the screw and the knife ;

2. Or from falling a prey to the professional rubber and bonesetter, or the so-called *consulting* orthopædic instrument makers and electric machine manufacturers, who shun medical interference, and sell indiscriminately their instruments to the ignorant, just as the druggist sells his wares to poor patients.

Many of the suggestions regarding the treatment will be found useful, not for the young only, but also in cases where the age of the patient is more advanced, and which at present are treated by medicines only, or left entirely to their fate.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	PAGE
1. Conditions under which Paralysis arises . . . . .	1
2. Additional Causes of Paralysis . . . . .	2
3. Paralysis frequently a Symptom of other Complaints . . . . .	3
4. Division of Paralysis with regard to the Nervous System . . . . .	3
5. The (Atrophic Localising) Infantile Paralysis . . . . .	3
6. Reasons for suggesting the names Atrophic and Localising . . . . .	3
7. The Characteristics of the Atrophic and Localising Paralysis in Infancy . . . . .	4
Violent or slight Feverish State precedes the Paralysis . . . . .	4
Convulsions and painful Contractions not characteristic . . . . .	5
Infantile Paralysis occurs also without any Fever or Con- vulsion . . . . .	5
Loss of Motion in the Trunk, Neck, and four Extremities, but not in the Face . . . . .	5
Two Cases of the Invasion of this Paralysis . . . . .	6
Forms of Localising Infantile Paralysis . . . . .	7
The Localisation of this form of Paralysis . . . . .	7
Origin of Deformities . . . . .	8
Origin of Deformities in the Lower Extremities . . . . .	8
Condition of Sensation, Reflex Action, and Electric Con- tractility . . . . .	9
Atrophy of the Paralysed Parts . . . . .	9
The Temperature of the Paralysed Parts . . . . .	10
Comparative Table of Temperature in the Atrophic Localising Paralysis, and those forms of Infantile Paralysis which are consequences of Cerebral Causes . . . . .	11
Cerebral Paralysis of Children . . . . .	12
Fatty Degeneration not an essential Symptom of this Complaint . . . . .	13
Predisposing Causes . . . . .	13
Paralysis Myogenique . . . . .	14
Paralysis, according to report, caused by Difficult Dentition . . . . .	15