

**THE BASIC PATHOLOGY AND
SPECIFIC TREATMENT OF
DIPHTHERIA, TYPHOID, ZYMOTIC,
SEPTIC, SCORBUTIC, AND
PUTRESCENT DISEASES GENERALLY**

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The Basic Pathology and Specific Treatment of Diphtheria, Typhoid, Zymotic, Septic, Scorbutic, and Putrescent Diseases Generally by Geo. J. Ziegler

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GEO. J. ZIEGLER

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W. H.

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BY
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PREFACE.

In the following pages I have endeavored to present a general summary of the basic pathology and specific treatment of some of the most formidable and destructive diseases that afflict and destroy mankind and the lower animals, for they are directly linked in one continuous pathological as well as physiological chain of life. I have therein tried to show that all the varied and complex diseases classed as scorbutic, necræmic, typhoid, zymotic, septic, infectious, malarial, gangrenous, putrescent, and allied affections, by whatever name designated, from the simplest to the most malignant, are dependent upon, or complicated with, one common basic, alkaline, pathogenic factor, mostly the volatile organic alkali—Ammonia, incidental to all forms of life, and differing only in quantity and the constitutional and local manifestations and complications arising from diverse aetiological and pathological conditions, yet underlying and intensifying them all, and thus often complicating and rendering more severe every form of disease, even of the simplest kind, for the successful treatment of which, this primal morbid factor must be decomposed, neutralized, or removed, which can usually be readily effected by acidulous, antalkaline, resolving, and counteracting agents, thus simplifying the hygienic and therapeutic problems in general, and giving more definiteness and certainty to sanitation and therapeutics, or both preventive and curative medicine.

Thus, the recognition and subversion, or neutralization and elimination of this one common alkaline factor of disease, pestilence, and death, inherent in the vital economy, as well as derived from extraneous sources, cannot fail to improve the health and greatly facilitate the prevention and resolution or cure of disease of all kinds, especially those typhoid, septic, zymotic, contagious and malignant maladies directly occasioned thereby, that so largely endanger and destroy the lives of human beings and the inferior creatures. With the special agents for this purpose, I have also briefly considered its collateral relations and morbid complications, with the particular remedies and measures indicated for the prevention and treatment of these diseases, both simple and complex.

I have thus embodied in general, the results of my own observations, experience, and studies thereon, with confirmatory evidence from other sources, believing them to be correct and in direct accord with science and truth. But as individual observation, experience, and effort are necessarily limited, I present them for the serious consideration of the medical profession, and the severest practical test to which they can be put in every way in hospitals and sanitarium for the sick, as well as in private practice, and in quarantine, and elsewhere throughout the world, for preventive and curative purposes; believing that both directly and indirectly their practical application will result in great good in the prevention and cure of some of the most malignant and devastating diseases, with the minor "ills to which flesh is heir," that so sorely scourge and destroy human beings with the inferior forms of life.

As it would, of course, require a large volume to treat of these subjects *in extenso*, I have merely presented a general outline of the main points and basic principles of the most practical importance in a hygienic and therapeutic point of view, to more directly concentrate attention thereon and better enable sanitarians and physicians to avert, counteract, and resolve these morbidic plagues with their concomitant evils.

PHILADELPHIA, November 15, 1863.

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I.
INTRODUCTION.

The treatment of diphtheria, typhoid, zymotic, scorbutic, septic, putrescent and correlative diseases, like all other morbid states, must necessarily be based upon their basic and true pathology, and although a knowledge of this is most desirable for the greatest certainty in the application of remedial measures, yet, independent thereof, much practical information of therapeutics may be acquired by enlightened observation, experiment, and practice, as well as the more purely empirical and tentative treatment, or the casual *juvantia* and *lædentia*, especially if supplemented with logical induction and deduction, and this too, even when the *ætiology* and pathology of any disease is most obscure and undetermined, as shown for instance, in the empirical discovery of the very general specific effects of cinchona bark with its principal alkaloid, quinia, in the prevention and cure of