

**THE HYDROPATHIC
TREATMENT OF DISEASES
PECULIAR TO WOMEN: AND
OF WOMEN IN CHILD BED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649609666

The Hydropathic Treatment of Diseases Peculiar to Women: And of Women in Childbed by
Edward Johnson

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Cover @ 2017

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EDWARD JOHNSON

**THE HYDROPATHIC
TREATMENT OF DISEASES
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OF WOMEN IN CHILDBED**

IN THE PRESS.

RESEARCHES

INTO THE

EFFECTS OF HYDROPATHY ON THE HEALTHY BODY,

TO ILLUSTRATE ITS ACTION IN DISEASE:

BEING A

SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS PERFORMED BY THE AUTHOR ON
HIMSELF AND OTHERS.

BY HOWARD F. JOHNSON, M.D.

LONDON: LONGMAN AND CO.

THE HYDROPATHIC TREATMENT

OF DISEASES

PECULIAR TO WOMEN,

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THE
HYDROPATHIC TREATMENT
OF DISEASES
PECULIAR TO WOMEN;
AND OF
WOMEN IN CHILDBED;
WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS:

BY EDWARD JOHNSON, M.D.,
AUTHOR OF 'LIFE, HEALTH, AND DISEASE,' 'DOMESTIC HYDROPATHY,' &c. &c.

LONDON:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND COMPANY.
MDCCL.

P R E F A C E.

ABOUT twelve months have elapsed since I published my 'DOMESTIC PRACTICE OF HYDROPATHY.' From its pages I purposely excluded those diseases which are peculiar to women. I thought it better that these should be collected into one small volume by themselves, for the use of those only whom alone they concern.

The disordered conditions treated in the following pages, some of them at least, are amongst the most common of all human maladies. They are, moreover, a class of

cases in which drugs are signally inefficient; rarely failing to aggravate the disease they are given to remedy; and often superadding new maladies to those which were already afflicting the patient; until the antidote at last becomes more fatal than the poison it was given to neutralize.

It has fallen to my lot to see a great deal of this class of cases, not, only of late years, but also whilst practising the old treatment in London. I have had, therefore, a fair opportunity of comparing the relative merits of the two treatments—the old one, as still practised by the great majority of medical men; and the new one, or that which I have adopted of late years, and which consists of the Hydropathic method, properly modified to suit the peculiarities of particular constitutions, added (in certain cases) to the local treatment in general use. By the term, '*certain cases*,' I more

particularly allude to those morbid affections of the uterus which embitter the existence of so many women, and frequently exist for years without being detected or suspected. It is, indeed, only within these last few years that the pathology of these diseases has *begun* to be understood; and as their existence cannot be ascertained without considerable trouble, they are more often overlooked by the great bulk of medical practitioners than any others; and the long train of distressing symptoms to which they give rise, is frequently attributed to any cause but the right one.

The result of my experience in the two treatments—that which I formerly practised in common with all others, and that which of late years I have adopted—fully warrants me in adhering to the latter, as incomparably the more efficient and successful.

Amongst the diseases of women, I have in-

cluded *Fissure*—an extremely painful affection of the lower bowel. I am told that this malady sometimes occurs in men. This may be so, for ought I know; but I have never myself met with it in any male subject. At all events, it happens so much more frequently to women as to justify, I think, its introduction here; and I am quite sure that it is frequently connected with, and dependent upon, disease of the uterus. I have at this moment, in my house, a case which puts this question beyond all doubt.

The management of infants, and of women in childbed, are subjects which, in literal strictness, are not embraced under the head of diseases of women. Nevertheless, here, as everywhere else in my writings, I have not hesitated to sacrifice every other consideration to that of practical utility. I have introduced, therefore, a few observations on these subjects; and their value, if they possess any, will not be at all diminished,