OUTLINES OF NAVAL SURGERY

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Outlines of Naval Surgery by John Wilson

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JOHN WILSON

OUTLINES OF NAVAL SURGERY



OUTLINES

OF

NAVAL SURGERY.

BY

JOHN WILSON, (D.

SURGEON, R. N.

LATE SURGEON, H. M. S. VANGUARD.

EDINBURGH: MACLACHLAN, STEWART & CO.

MDCCCXLVI.

1679.

J. THOMSON, PRINTER, MILHE SQUARE.

SIR WILLIAM BURNETT,

K.C.H., M.D., F.R.S.,

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

Sir,

The following pages are dedicated to you with the greatest respect.

As the Director-General of the Naval Medical Department, it is proper that every work, written on the Health or Diseases of Seamen, should so be.

It seems unnecessary to state, at this moment, what may be the importance of the subject herein, however imperfectly treated, to, or its connection with, the best interests of the British as a maritime nation—health is strength,—without it, it is easy to see, no ship, and no fleet, can be efficient or capable of doing their duty.

To you, as Chief of the Naval Medical Department, a debt of gratitude and respect from the medical officers of every grade, it is but proper to say, is justly due—for your able and upright conduct in all official dealings, urbanity of manner, and an exertion unceasing in their behalf.

I have the honour to be,

SIR.

Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN WILSON, (D.)

Surgeon, R. N.

GRAHAMSTONE, STIRLINGSHIRE, Jan. 1846.

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CHAPTER I.

PART I .- EXAMINATION OF SEAMEN.

In all ships of war, this is an important and very frequently occurring point of medical duty. On it much depends in various ways. It is important to the service and to the surgeon. At all times it influences, and that most materially, the ship in her character and capability. The examination of seamen loosely conducted, or in any way imperfect or improper, is in all cases detrimental both to the general health and energy.

In raising a crew, or manning, through the zeal of some officers, or their anxiety to complete, too much haste is often displayed. Men are too often entered, who, through defects, natural or acquired, are unfit. In some, disease or defects are naturally so deep or obscure, as not to be easily detected, and, through the scarcity of men, claims or long service, some are tolerated or imprudently admitted.