

**ON NERVOUS DISORDERS,  
AND SOME OTHER  
CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED  
WITH INDIGESTION**

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On Nervous Disorders, and Some Other Conditions Associated with Indigestion by Edwin  
Payne

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**NERVOUS DISORDERS.**

ON  
NERVOUS DISORDERS,  
AND  
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INDIGESTION.

BY  
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HENRY RENSHAW, 356, STRAND.  
1864.

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## PREFACE.

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THERE are advantages and disadvantages attendant upon the publication of popular medical works. A disadvantage would appear to consist in every one trying, by the help of such writings, to become his own efficient physician, which is an utter impossibility in these days, notwithstanding that an old motto says, "any man must be either a fool or a physician at forty." Perhaps, however, there are advantages in some of the broad principles of RATIONAL MEDICINE being generally understood; since, when such is the case, the false systems of quackery of various kinds, now so prevalent, are more likely to be estimated at their true value—the educated physician to occupy that place in public esteem, to which both the



humanity and learning of his profession entitle him, and the sufferer to gain those advantages from medical care and treatment and intelligent nursing, for which he so longs and patiently waits. Hoping that something thus useful may be found in these few pages, they are respectfully offered to the reader.

34, ARTILLERY PLACE,  
FINCHBURY SQUARE, LONDON.

*May, 1864.*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN the study of skin diseases my attention has been constantly attracted to the sympathy between the state of the skin and the condition of the digestive functions. The sympathy between the condition of the organs of digestion and their product, the blood, and the condition of the skin is so close, that he who studies one cannot practically overlook the other. Facts have accumulated in the course of my practice, both in private and as a physician to a public dispensary, and forced themselves upon my notice, demanding attention and solution. The mucous membrane lining the stomach and intestinal tube is but a modified reflected skin; there is constantly to be observed a close connexion between the affections of the skin and mucous membrane, and that not

only in such diseases as scarlet fever and measles. In the case of a lady, only during the last year, I had the opportunity of noticing this fact; she was suffering with an intensely painful condition of the tongue, and the mucous membrane was entirely shed and renewed, and this was progressively carried out through the intestinal canal, and on the skin there was to be noticed a papular eruption, and especially over the abdomen. This eruption kept pace with the internal condition, as a species of counter-irritation, and when the mucous membrane became restored, then the papular eruption subsided. In herpes, which is sometimes observed to follow the course of nerves, we find nature's counter-irritant. In a case of *prurigo*, which is a papular eruption, in which there is most troublesome itching and tingling, there was excessive morbid irritability, and neuralgic condition of the stomach. Now here were two evidences of nerve lesion, and the one might be used to interpret the other. There is a natural law of action and reaction; there is a principle of compensation continually to be observed at work. During the day we are