

**ON HAY-FEVER.
HAY-ASTHMA, OR
SUMMER-CATTARH**

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On hay-fever. Hay-asthma, or Summer-Cattarh by Abbotts Smith

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BY

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FIFTH EDITION.
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1867.



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PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

THE Author's views upon the subject discussed in the following pages are so completely expressed in the prefaces to the former editions, in the work itself, and in his contributions to various medical periodicals, that it would be unnecessary now to recapitulate them; but he would take this opportunity to state that the additional experience which he has had of the affection, and the corroborative evidence which has been spontaneously rendered by numerous professional correspondents, have fully established the correctness of the principles which he advanced, although some of them were contrary to the opinions which had been previously accepted.

It is a curious fact, in connection with the subject of Hay-fever, that three distinct, erroneous opinions are held by different persons, viz:—1. That no such disorder exists; 2. That it is only of slight consequence, when it does occur; and 3. That when it does present itself, it must be looked upon as incurable.

The fallacy of each of these discrepant propositions is demonstrated in the following pages. The existence of Hay-fever is directly proved by the fact that thousands of persons are attacked by it every year; the intensity of their sufferings—in no small number of instances necessitating total cessation from the patients' ordinary avocations for several weeks or even months—is a sufficient answer to those who suppose that it is of only a slight nature; and the author has proved, as will be seen on a perusal of this work, that it is not always incurable, as some writers assert, but that, on the contrary, prompt and judicious treatment will be productive of cure in many, and relief in all, cases of Hay-Fever.

But for its appearing egotistical on my part to dilate upon this point, I could quote numerous cases of this affection, which had completely yielded to treatment, although the patients had suffered severely, and for many successive years. In fact, every season produces fuller and more conclusive evidence of the efficacy of suitable remedial measures.

22, FINCHBURY SQUARE,

LONDON, E.C.

July, 1867.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE following remarks on the subject of Hay-Fever, also known as Hay-Asthma, or Summer-Catarrh, are partly reprinted from papers by the author, published in the "Medical Mirror," and containing an epitome of various communications on this disorder, made at different times to that and other professional journals.

The affection is one of great interest, both on account of the mystery which surrounds the earlier history of the disorder, its prevalence throughout the world, its peculiar symptoms, and the tenacity with which, having once shown itself in any individual, it continues its hold upon the unhappy sufferer during the whole or greater part of life. Nor do sex, age, or temperament furnish any safeguard against its attacks.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, it is a matter for astonishment that greater efforts have not hitherto been made to elucidate the doubtful points relating to its history, causes, and treatment, and thus to obtain a more certain guide to the relief or cure of the disorder.

This apparent apathy may, in great measure, be attributed to the authoritative manner in which it has been laid down as an incontrovertible *dictum* by the few writers on the subject, that Hay-Fever is not curable. The author of the following pages has endeavoured, in different communications made at various times to the medical periodicals, to disprove the tenability of this doctrine, and increased experience has only tended to confirm him in the opinion that the affection may be invariably palliated, and not unfrequently cured, especially if the case has not, through neglect, been allowed to assume a chronic character. The predisposition to the disorder must, of course, remain inherent in the patient's constitution; but, when once the remedies suitable to his case have been ascertained, he need never in future years be at a loss to know how to ward off the annual attack as soon as the easily-recognized symptoms begin to manifest themselves.

Yet, many instances have occurred to the author's knowledge, where persons, hopeless of obtaining alleviation to their sufferings, and further dispirited by the thoughtless want of sympathy too often shown by others who are themselves fortunately free from any predisposition to this affection, and who consequently do not comprehend the misery which they endure, have voluntarily confined themselves to their houses or their rooms for many weeks