

**A PRACTICAL TREATISE
ON CONGESTION AND
INACTIVITY OF THE LIVER**

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A Practical Treatise on Congestion and Inactivity of the Liver by Frederick J. Mosgrove

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FREDERICK J. MOSGROVE

**A PRACTICAL TREATISE
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INACTIVITY OF THE LIVER**

A PRACTICAL TREATISE
ON
CONGESTION AND INACTIVITY
OF
THE LIVER:

SHOWING SOME OF THE EFFECTS PRODUCED
BY THESE DISORDERS ON THE MOST IM-
PORTANT ORGANS OF THE BODY.

Illustrated by Cases.

BY FREDERICK J. MOSGROVE,
SURGEON.



LONDON:
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1843.

PREFACE.

I HAVE for several years past constantly had occasion to observe the lamentable consequences which result from neglecting the first indications of Inactivity of the Liver, and the miseries which are entailed on after life by the injudicious employment of remedies for the cure of that complaint.

In every case of severe disorder of the Liver which has come under my observation, I have ascertained that the deranged action was ushered in by symptoms apparently so unimportant as to be either altogether overlooked, or considered of too trivial a nature to require the employment of any remedies.

In order that these symptoms and the consequences of disregarding them might

be more generally known, I have been induced to lay this Treatise before the public.

It has been my desire, as far as possible, to avoid technical expressions, and to treat the matter in so simple a style as to come within the comprehension even of those least acquainted with medical subjects. Should the perusal of these pages cause any to attend more carefully to the action of the Liver, or to adopt more rational means for the cure of disorders of that organ than those ordinarily employed, this work will not have been written in vain.

F. J. MOSGROVE.

23, *Finsbury Place North.*

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CHAPTER I.

CONGESTION AND INACTIVITY OF THE LIVER.

IN order that the subject of the following pages may be more fully understood by my non-professional readers, I shall first explain the meaning of the term "Congestion," and then proceed to give, in as clear and concise terms as possible, a description of the anatomical structure of the Liver, its connexion with other important organs of the body, and the function it is required to perform.

The term "Congestion" implies an overdistended state of blood-vessels, whereby their elasticity is weakened or destroyed, and the circulation of the blood

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in them impeded; * the necessary effect of which is, either a partial or total suspension of the functions of the part so affected, depending on the degree of congestion, in consequence of each organ of the body requiring a certain rapidity in the circulation of its blood, to enable it properly to maintain its action.

The Liver is the largest secreting organ of the body, and contains a much greater proportion of blood than any other part of the human frame. It is

* Although the action of no inanimate matter can fully explain the rules by which the living body is governed, yet the following illustration may somewhat assist the reader in comprehending the subject. Thus if a fluid were forced by means of a pump through an India-rubber tube, at each jet of the fluid the tube would first dilate, but again immediately resume its former size, and, by its contraction, assist in the propulsion. Should the tube be obstructed at any part, or the forcing power be much increased, the tube would become distended much beyond its original size; and in proportion to the degree of distention, would its power of contraction become diminished.