

**THE LETTSOMIAN LECTURES
DELIVERED AT THE MEDICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON, 1872, ON
THE PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT
OF SOME DISEASES OF THE LIVER**

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The Lettsomian Lectures Delivered at the Medical Society of London, 1872, on the Pathology and Treatment of Some Diseases of the Liver by S. O. Habershon

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DISEASES OF THE LIVER.

BY

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PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

SECOND EDITION.



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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THESE Lectures having been for some time out of print, I have ventured again to offer them to the notice of the profession. Some additions and corrections have been made, but the Lectures are substantially the same. Many years of extended experience in the diagnosis and treatment of Diseases of the Liver have more firmly impressed upon my mind the fact, that functional disturbances of the liver take place without direct interference with the bile-ducts, and that the nervous system in its influence upon the physiological action of the liver is a fertile source of disease. In some of these maladies there may be no jaundice produced, but possibly abnormal pallor. The advance of medical science has shown that the old-fashioned blue pill and black draught, although often very serviceable, do not reach many diseases which are due to the imperfect action of the liver. We have not attempted to enlarge the work into a treatise on diseases of the liver, and many of the affections of this important gland are only very briefly alluded to; neither have we ventured to illustrate our opinions by instances that have come under our own notice, as it would have increased the book in a manner that we did not contemplate. It has rather been the object to state some of the deductions brought before the mind during years of clinical observation.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

WHEN I accepted the honour of delivering the Lett-
somian Lectures at the Medical Society of London,
I hoped that time would have permitted me to enter
fully upon the subject which I had chosen; and
although deeply conscious of the imperfect manner in
which I have carried out my intention, I have pre-
ferred presenting the Lectures to the public in the
manner in which they were delivered, rather than to
enlarge upon the original matter. They are published
at the request of some members of the Society; and
whilst it has been quite foreign to my purpose to give
a treatise on Diseases of the Liver, the Lectures will
be found to contain practical suggestions, which will,
I trust, be of service to those who are engaged in the
active duties of the profession.

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DISEASES OF THE LIVER.

LECTURE I.

THE LIVER AND ITS NERVES.

THE tendency of modern medical practice is often to separate the diseases of one organ from those of another, and to *dissociate*, as if organs had independent action, and could perform fully their functional requirements with very little connection with other parts; whereas there is the closest unity in the arrangement of the structures of the whole body, and especial means are provided to bring one portion of the organism into sympathy and intimate relationship with another. The two great means by which this living union is rendered effectual are the blood and the nervous system: the former, the medium by which fresh supplies of nourishment are afforded, or effete materials carried away from the ultimate structures; and the latter, the agent which guides and controls and harmonises the mutual workings of the separate parts.

It is scarcely necessary to advert to the position