

**ON THE SYMPTOMATIC
TREATMENT OF CHOLERA: WITH
ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE INTESTINAL
LESION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649192748

On the symptomatic treatment of cholera: with especial reference to the importance of the intestinal lesion by Felix von Niemeyer

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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FELIX VON NIEMEYER

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ON THE
SYMPTOMATIC TREATMENT OF CHOLERA,
WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE INTESTINAL LESION,

BY

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TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN, BY

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CAMBRIDGE:
DEIGHTON, BELL, AND CO.
LONDON: BELL & DALDY.

1872.

151. 0. 243.



TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE painful interest awakened during the past autumn by the progress of Cholera on the Continent has led to the renewed advancement of various and opposing theories as to the nature and treatment of the disease. Amid the doubt and uncertainty which prevail, it is refreshing to find a pamphlet in which the connection between the symptoms and the pathology of the disease is so explained as to carry with it a strong conviction of correctness. Dr. Felix von Niemeyer was essentially a practical physician as well as a laborious pathologist, and in the books of no author do we find the dependence of the symptoms on the pathological condition more clearly shewn or explained than in his classical work on "Special Pathology and Therapeutics;" a work, the high appreciation of which is shewn by its having

rapidly run through eight editions in German, besides various editions in French, Italian, and English. Although the pamphlet which I have ventured to think ought to appear in an English form was published more than 20 years ago, Professor Niemeyer in the last edition of his work, above named, in the article on Cholera, still holds, with his larger experience, to the views promulgated in the pamphlet. He says, "The asphyctic form of cholera is the result of the morbid process in the intestines having reached its greatest intensity. At least, all the symptoms which characterise this form of the disease may without difficulty be referred to the severe and *extensive* mischief in the intestinal mucous membrane, and to the copious transudation from the intestinal capillaries." And further on he adds, "For details respecting the favourable effect immediately produced on nearly all the patients by this method of treatment, particularly by the use of the cold applications; as well as for the grounds on which it was adopted, I refer my readers to my brochure 'Die symptomatische Behandlung der Cholera, Magdeburg.' I may just mention here that when Pfeuffer, in 1854, was commissioned to

advise the Bavarian physicians as to the treatment of the then approaching Cholera, he recommended to them my method of treatment, as the one which, according to his experience, had been the most successful."

In my translation I have endeavoured to avoid 'Germanisms' by giving a free rendering of the original, but I trust this has been done in such a way as completely to preserve the meaning of the author.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

It has not at all been my intention to write an exhaustive treatise on Cholera. The number of **Monographs** on this disease in which the symptoms especially are fully discussed, is moreover large enough. I have simply committed to writing the results of my own experience, based on the observations which the abundant opportunities afforded by my very extensive practice among the poor enabled me to make. What is written in the following pages was therefore not designed originally to appear as a separate work on Cholera, but was intended as a contribution to one of our periodicals. It has however exceeded the dimensions of a newspaper article, and on this account appears now in its present form.