

**ON CHOREA AND OTHER
ALLIED MOVEMENT
DISORDERS OF EARLY LIFE**

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On Chorea and Other Allied Movement Disorders of Early Life by Octavius Sturges

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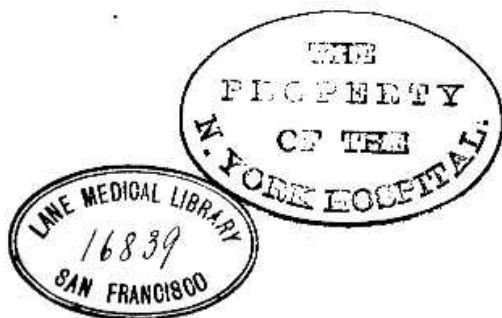
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BY

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TO

DR JOHN ABERCROMBIE

MEDICAL REGISTRAR TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

This Work is Inscribed

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SOURCE WHENCE MUCH OF

ITS MATERIAL IS DERIVED

WITH THE GOOD WISHES OF HIS FELLOW-LABOURER

•THE AUTHOR



PREFACE.

THE object of this book, a portion of which has already appeared in medical journals, is to place before the reader such an account of Chorea, and of the theories which prevail concerning it, as shall enable him to form some judgment as to the nature and suitable treatment of a disorder which is not very common in ordinary practice, yet subject to so many varieties that the study of a few examples gives no adequate conception of its true character.

The first and chief part of the work is occupied with a description of Chorea and of the several hypotheses which have been provided to explain it; the rest is devoted to an examination of these theories in the light of admitted facts, together with an account of that particular view of the pathology and management of the affection which a full consideration of its phenomena seems to suggest. The Appendices, referring to a large number of cases which have been under my own observation and treatment, claim to furnish some of the evidence upon which the conclusions of the book are founded.

In expressing dissent from all anatomical explanations of Chorea, it has been necessary to refer to many eminent

authorities who have attempted to reach its structural basis. In so doing I must not be understood as setting up my own opinion against accepted doctrines of pathology. The failure, or at least the ambiguity, of morbid anatomy in this particular is not denied, and in calling attention to it I have only given utterance to what is generally admitted. If it should be thought that too much space is occupied with such controversy, the apology must be that the subject in its present stage cannot be otherwise dealt with, and that it would be absurd to discuss the treatment of Chorea until we have come to some agreement as to its nature.

My purpose throughout has been to show that Chorea, no less than the many smaller movement transgressions which resemble it, is a disease of function due in large measure to preventible causes; that the nature and circumstances of children render them apt subjects for such a disorder; and that, while it is beyond reasonable expectation that the course of childhood should be kept altogether out of its reach, we are not without guidance as to the sort of training and management which affords the surest protection against its attacks, and the best material for its cure.

85 WIMPOLE STREET:

October 16, 1881.

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