

**ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
TREATMENT OF  
FEMALE DISEASES**

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On the Constitutional Treatment of Female Diseases by Edward Rigby

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(By the same Author.)

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### FROM THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.

"It is only necessary for the Editor to say that the production of the author is so complete as to have rendered his labor a light one. He has restricted himself mainly to such additions and references as he conceives would render the work more useful to American practitioners. The object of the publication being to present the most condensed view of each subject, he believes it to be inexpedient to depart from the plan by making extensive additions, and entering into the discussion of controversial points, most of which are of minor importance.

"The late Professor Dewees, in whose hands this volume was placed, a few weeks before his death, in returning it, expressed the most favorable opinion of its merits; and the judgment of such high authority renders it supererogatory to add a word further of commendation."

ON THE

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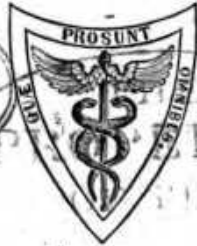
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BY

EDWARD RIGBY, M. D.

ETC. ETC.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;  
SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO THE GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL;  
EXAMINER IN MIDWIFERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.



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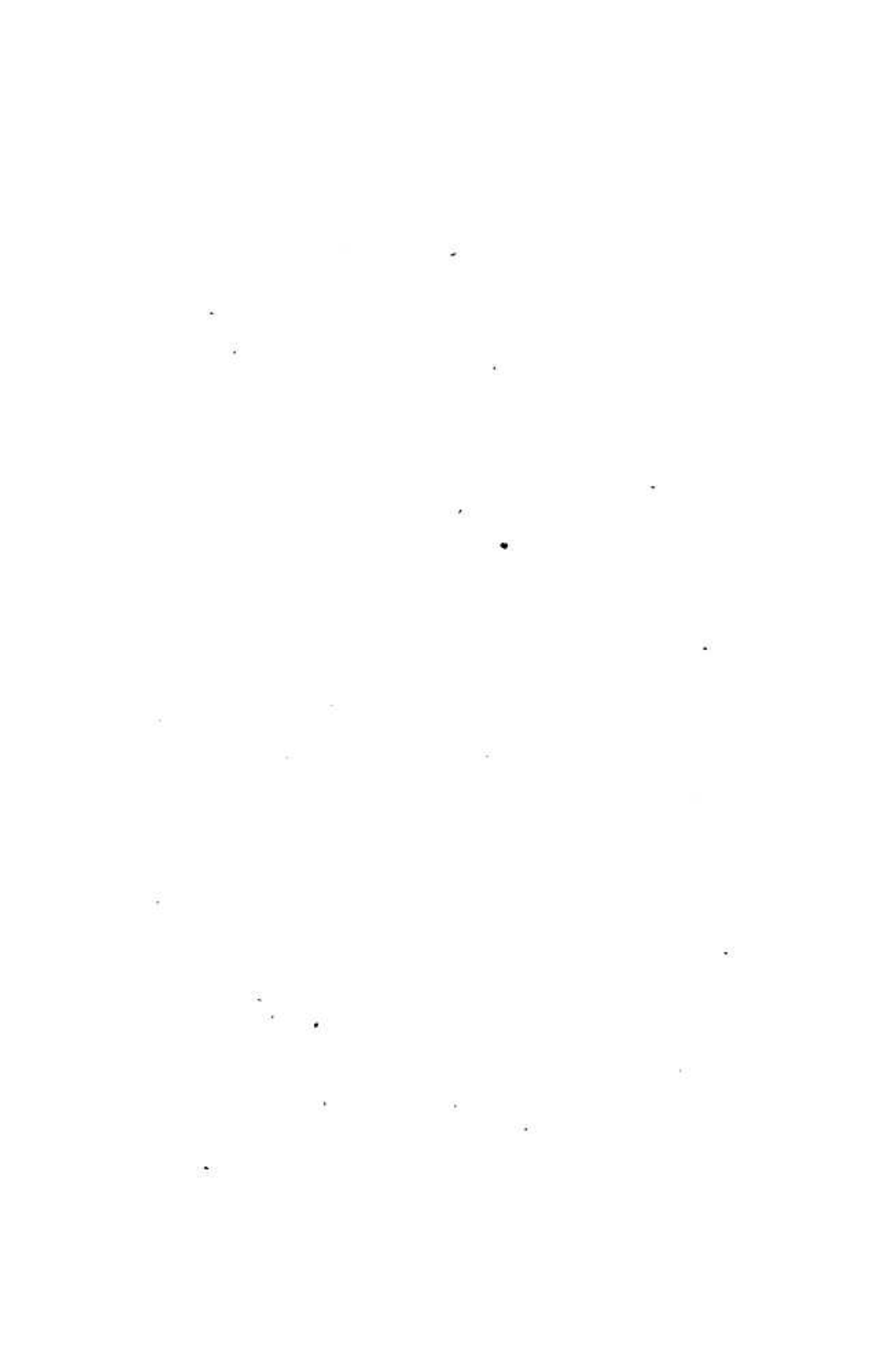
OF NORWICH,

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## P R E F A C E .

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THE following observations on uterine and other female affections, have no claim to being a complete work on the diseases of women. I have, as far as possible, strictly adhered to the precise meaning of the title page, feeling convinced that if I had attempted to render the work *complete*, I should have incurred a more dangerous error by rendering the details incomplete.

I do not offer it as a class-book to those who are entering the medical profession, and whose studies must necessarily be chiefly, if not entirely, devoted to preparing themselves for their different examinations; but I venture to offer it, more especially, to that large portion of my professional brethren, who, being engaged in general practice, have not been able to devote their special attention to a class of affections which, nevertheless, must frequently come under their notice.

The work is strictly *practical*; and I have endeavored throughout, as far as I could, to bear this in view. I have, therefore, devoted what may appear an unusual amount of consideration to the functional de-

rangements, particularly those of menstruation; not only because they are affections of every-day occurrence, but because I am particularly anxious that their close connection with the general health, and its various conditions, especially as regards the chylopoietic viscera, should be thoroughly understood; being convinced that on a right appreciation of this, depends not only their correct diagnosis, but also the principles of their successful treatment.

I have devoted separate chapters to the consideration of these subjects (Amenorrhœa, Dysmenorrhœa, &c.), solely in deference to a long-established custom, which in former times was a necessity, when their nature and essential causes were imperfectly or erroneously understood, and which has been sanctioned by force of habit; but I feel assured that my readers will agree with me in the conviction that the time will come when these terms, as well as that of leucorrhœa, will no longer designate distinct affections, but will be classed with such symptoms as pain, rigors, expectoration, &c.

Neither do I consider that organic disease of the female generative organs is to stand as an exception to the importance of constitutional treatment; for I look upon it (to use an admirable expression of Dr. Latham's, on pulmonary consumption), as "no more than a *fragment* of a constitutional malady." The great additions which have been made to our pathological knowledge of late years, by means of microscopic and chemical research,