

**WHAT IS MALARIA? AND WHY IS IT MOST
INTENSE IN HOT CLIMATES? AN ENQUIRY
INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE SO-
CALLED MARSH POISON WITH REMARKS ON
THE PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF HEALTH IN TROPICAL
CLIMATES AND MALARIOUS DISTRICTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649732807

What is Malaria? And Why is It Most Intense in Hot Climates? An Enquiry into the Nature and Cause of the So-Called Marsh Poison with Remarks on the Principles to be Observed for the Preservation of Health in Tropical Climates and Malarious Districts by C. F. Oldham

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

C. F. OLDHAM

**WHAT IS MALARIA? AND WHY IS IT MOST
INTENSE IN HOT CLIMATES? AN ENQUIRY
INTO THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE SO-
CALLED MARSH POISON WITH REMARKS ON
THE PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF HEALTH IN TROPICAL
CLIMATES AND MALARIOUS DISTRICTS**

WHAT IS MALARIA ?

AND

WHY IS IT MOST INTENSE IN HOT CLIMATES ?

LANE LIBRARY
AN ENQUIRY INTO

THE NATURE AND CAUSE OF THE SO-CALLED MARSH POISON

WITH REMARKS

ON THE PRINCIPLES TO BE OBSERVED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH
IN TROPICAL CLIMATES AND MALARIOUS DISTRICTS.

BY

C. F. OLDHAM, M.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.S.L.,

ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL, INDIAN ARMY;
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; LATE IN MEDICAL CHARGE
OF DALHOUSIE SANCTUARY.



LONDON :

H. K. LEWIS, GOWER STREET, W.C.

CALCUTTA : WYMAN & Co.

1871.

D

100
044
1871

TO

His Grace

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Etc., Etc.

HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA

This Work is,

BY HIS GRACE'S PERMISSION, MOST RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED.



PREFACE.

THE opinions expressed in the following pages, upon the origin of malarious fevers,—(a subject of world-wide interest and importance,) differ so materially from those of many men distinguished for scientific attainments and professional eminence, that I should feel much diffidence in publishing them, were they not the result of much reflection, observation, and enquiry, together with considerable experience in my own person of the diseases referred to.

Some remarks of Dr. B. W. Richardson, relating to the connection between meteorology and disease, appear so applicable to the subject treated of in this work, that I cannot do better than repeat his words.

“ We observe great outbreaks of disease, and we look for their primary cause: says one, it is ‘epidemic influence,’ says another, it is ‘germs,’ ‘organic germs;’ says a third, it is ‘malarious air,’ and so on, each having a theory and adding to it some learned reason, or so-called practical inference

or moral; and all omitting to enquire what may be the action, in regard to causation, of common changes of atmosphere combined or uncombined with natural physiological changes in the living organism."

Brought face to face with endemic malarious disease, in all its forms, I found it impossible, under any of the usually accepted theories, to account satisfactorily for many of the phenomena attending its production; I set myself, therefore, to find out something definite as to its nature and origin.

After much careful enquiry, I arrived at the conclusion that malaria, as a specific poison, does not exist.

Further, I became convinced, that the diseases usually attributed to "malarious influence" are caused by chill, or in other words, by the sudden abstraction of heat; and the more closely the circumstances connected with the development of these disorders were enquired into, the more firmly did this conviction become established.

I found, moreover, that the greater prevalence of "malaria" in hot climates, and the graver type of the diseases produced there, could in this way be readily accounted for; together with several phenomena, which are irreconcilable with the usually received theories on the subject.

I am of opinion that many diseases, besides ma-

larious fevers, arise from the cause which I have named; especially dysentery, hepatitis, and others with which these fevers are very closely connected. But to avoid confusion, it may be well to mention, that the term malarious disease is, in the present work, intended to apply only to the intermittent and remittent fevers, of which "malaria" is so generally considered to be the cause.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to offer my thanks to those friends, who have kindly assisted me with information and otherwise; and especially to Dr. Thomas Inman, who long ago taught me to take nothing for granted, but to observe and to think, to which lesson is mainly due this enquiry into the nature and cause of "Malaria."

London. December, 1870.

