

**THE CAUSES AND TREATMENT OF
LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE
SPINE: ENLARGED FROM
LECTURES PUBLISHED IN 'THE
LANCET'**

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The Causes and Treatment of Lateral Curvature of the Spine: Enlarged from Lectures Published in 'the Lancet' by Richard Barwell

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RICHARD BARWELL

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THE
CAUSES AND TREATMENT
OF
LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE
SPINE.

ENLARGED FROM LECTURES PUBLISHED IN 'THE LANCET.'

By RICHARD BARWELL, F.R.C.S.,

SURGEON TO AND LECTURER ON ANATOMY
AT THE CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

SECOND EDITION.



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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE mode in which the first edition of this work has been received by the Profession is a most gratifying sign that the principles advocated and upheld therein have made their value and their weight felt; while the constantly enlarging circle of my experience has shown me that in no part have my views needed modification, but simply here and there expansion. Hence the present edition contains certain further developments of etiology, diagnosis, and treatment. Of the former, I would point out such examples as permanent and habitual pelvic obliquity, productive of lumbar curvature, and the diagnosis of rotation by looking perpendicularly on the back. In order fully to explain and to illustrate these several points, many pages and a

number of woodcuts have been added to the present edition.

It is hoped that the pains employed in rendering the work as complete as possible, compatible with a readable size, the additional illustrations chiefly by outline drawings from nature; and the further developments which a large experience has produced, will cause this second edition to be received as favourably as the first.

RICHARD BARWELL.

*32, Georgy Street, Hanover Square,
September, 1870.*

PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH it be unadvisable that an author should in a preface argue the necessity of reading his book, he may nevertheless be permitted to state why it has been written. In the present plethora of medical literature no one should publish unless he has something to say which he believes to be more than a mere repetition of what has been said in another form,—something which he believes to be both new and useful. The reason of my having such faith in the ensuing pages may be thus stated.

Having failed to find in books a satisfactory theory of those conditions which produce lateral curvature, it naturally appeared that in all the works, English and continental, which I studied, and whose name is legion, there was something defective, for they gave, to my thinking, no explanation of certain

essential peculiarities of that deformity. Endeavouring to carry further their line of reasoning, the same gap or the same impassable barrier presented itself. It then appeared that, to carry out my desire, I must work for myself. To do this I first examined a great many normal backs under different conditions, measuring and calculating different movements and varying postures, both at rest and in exercise. The results of about twenty months of this labour are given in a few lines of the ensuing pages; at the same time, dissections and examinations of normal and morbid specimens, as far as my opportunities would permit, were carried on. Having completed these studies, I turned to living spinal curvatures, and investigated their condition with the insight which my studies of the norm had afforded. This work also occupied a considerable period, during which time all theorizing was avoided until a large mass of facts were collected, until these facts presented me with a causation which I could trust, and until experience led me to a treatment calculated to remedy its effects. Although, then, a great

deal has been written upon the subject of lateral curvature of the spine, I yet hold myself justified in adding another work to the list; because the views which I have been led to form account for those essential characteristics which have been hitherto left unexplained, and because the treatment which I advocate is certainly less irksome, and will, I firmly believe, be found by others, as by myself, more efficacious than that which has hitherto been pursued.

It only remains for me to say that the substance, or, as it may be called, a summary, of the ensuing pages, appeared in 'The Lancet' during the latter end of the last and the beginning of the present year. Perhaps may be partly due to that form of publication a certain mode of arrangement which, though not quite logical or orderly, will, I think, conduce to the more easy comprehension of the doctrine which I desire to teach.

RICHARD BARWELL.

32, *George Street, Hanover Square,*
26th *May, 1868.*

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