

**MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS,  
A MANUAL OF  
CLINICAL METHODS**

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Medical diagnosis, a manual of clinical methods by J. Graham Brown

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**J. GRAHAM BROWN**

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CLINICAL METHODS**



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# MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS

## A MANUAL OF CLINICAL METHODS

BY

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"Felix, qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas."—VIRG., *Georg.* II. 490

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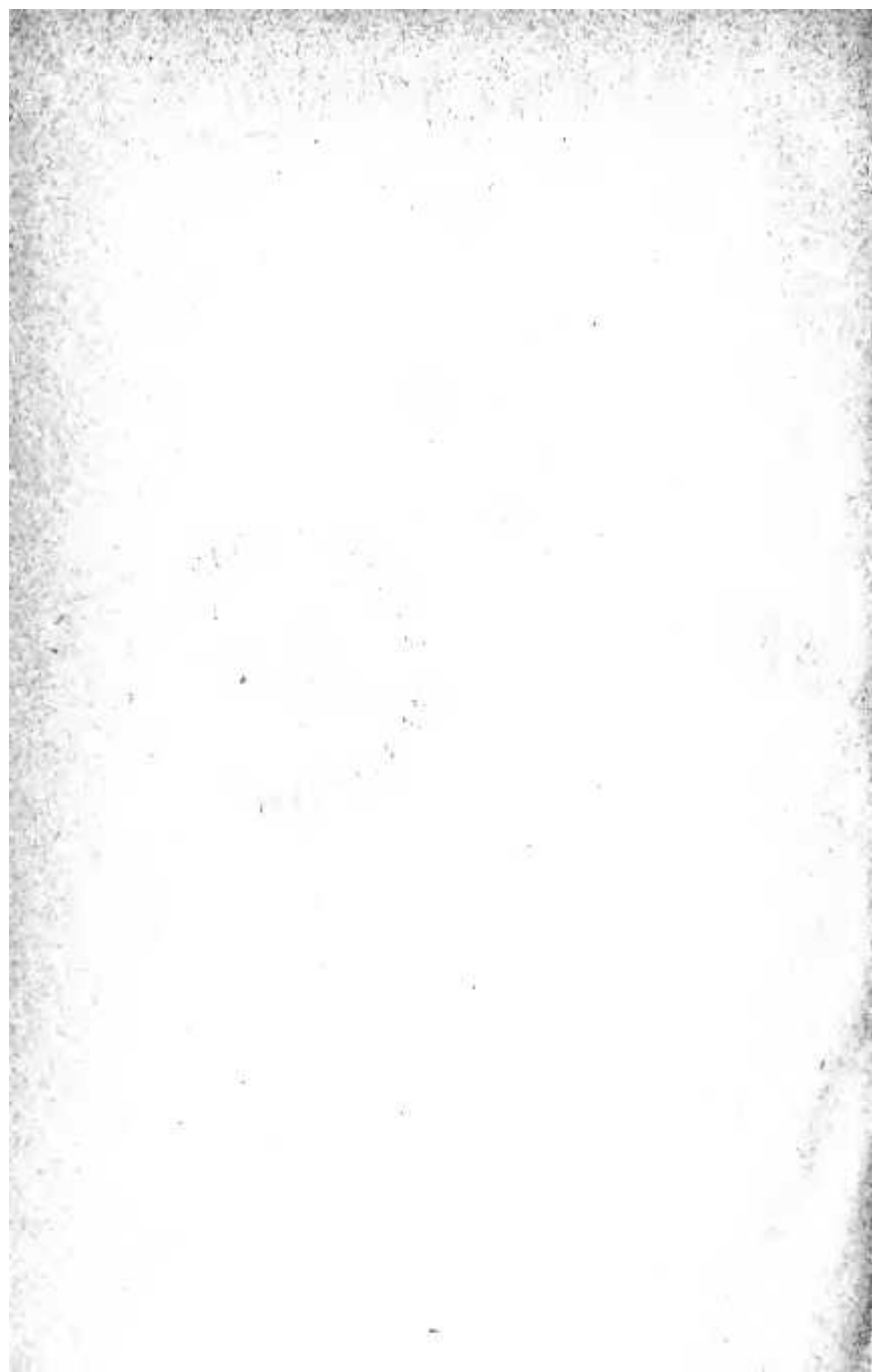
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## PREFACE.

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It is a creditable characteristic of the treatment of disease in the present day that it seeks to proceed on rational principles. Some there may still be who think it enough to give a name to a collective group of symptoms, and treat the disease as they have been told an affection bearing that name should be treated. There may be others who seize upon a few prominent symptoms, and direct their remedies exclusively to these. But every day is, happily, reducing the number of these routine practitioners, and teaching that the true physician is he who seeks thoroughly to investigate the phenomena of the disease, that in this way he may the better arrive at a knowledge of that from which they proceed, and to which, therefore, his treatment should be directed. But this can only be arrived at by a thorough knowledge of every change which disease produces in the body, and by a clear conception of what that change imports. This constitutes the science of Diagnosis, and, without accurate diagnosis, there can be no rational treatment.

The signs and symptoms of disease are changes produced in the animal economy, which are cognoscible by our senses—some by one, others by another; while to assist these senses we call in the aid of instruments which extend their range or increase their power, and of the various analytical processes which the science of Chemistry places at our disposal.

In the following pages an attempt has been made to describe these signs and symptoms of disease, and to show what is their value from a diagnostic point of view. If this attempt be at all successful, it may enable the student of disease to save much valuable time, by assisting him in analyzing and weighing the evidences of disease, and extracting from the whole phenomena which are presented to

him those which are of value as indicating its nature. The attempt is made not with a view of checking but rather of encouraging minute inquiry, while it aims at giving to the result of that inquiry more definite form.

A man who has clearly grasped a case in its entirety, who has separated the essential from the accidental, and who has ascertained the weight and bearing of each individual symptom, can go steadily forward in the treatment of his case without experiencing that harassing doubt which arises from partial or crude observation, and which, to a conscientious mind, cannot but prove a severe trial.

I desire to express my thanks to my friends who have encouraged and aided me in carrying out my design; among others, to Professor Grainger Stewart, from whom I have uniformly received much kind sympathy and advice. To Professor C. S. Roy I am indebted not only for the heart and pulse tracings with which I have illustrated Chapter XIII., but for very valuable assistance which I have received at his hands. Dr. Alexander R. Coldstream, of Edinburgh, has materially assisted me in the correction of the proofsheets.

J. G. B.

63 CASTLE STREET,  
EDINBURGH, 15th September, 1882.



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