

**THE COLD-BATH TREATMENT OF
TYPHOID FEVER, THE EXPERIENCE
OF A CONSECUTIVE SERIES OF
1902 CASES TREATED AT THE
BRISBANE HOSPITAL**

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The cold-bath treatment of typhoid fever, the experience of a consecutive series of 1902 cases treated at the Brisbane Hospital by F. E. Hare

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THE COLD-BATH TREATMENT
OF TYPHOID FEVER





MALE FEVER-WARD, BRISBANE HOSPITAL.

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THE COLD-BATH TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER

THE EXPERIENCE OF A CONSECUTIVE SERIES OF
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWO CASES
TREATED AT THE BRISBANE
HOSPITAL

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE

MEDICAL literature threatens to grow to such unwieldy dimensions, that the first duty of every author should be to offer the profession some satisfactory excuse for seeking to add to its bulk. I have been induced to attempt this sketch of the Cold-bath Treatment of Typhoid Fever, as carried out at the Brisbane Hospital, by the following considerations—

(1) There is not, so far as I am aware, any single modern work upon the subject in the English language. Such information as is obtainable is scattered through the pages of the various medical journals, or is contained in hospital-reports not readily accessible.

(2) The treatment in recent years has made great and steady advances in various parts of the world. In America it is in use at the Pennsylvania and German Hospitals, Philadelphia; at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal; and at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. In Australia, at

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several of the country hospitals of Queensland, at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, and at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, it is now on its trial. In spite of this there still exists a large amount of serious misconception on the subject. Even amongst those who are inclined to accept the statistical evidence on its behalf, and to believe in the life-saving value of the treatment, it is too often regarded as burdensome in practice, if not altogether impracticable. The inertia of the profession in England in this respect is exemplified in the following paragraph taken from the *British Medical Journal* for the current year. "The practice is in the *experimental* stage [*the italics are mine*]; it is very much disliked by patients and their friends; it needs very close supervision by the medical man and a picked staff of experienced nurses; and finally, if carried out in all cases, costly and cumbrous apparatus is required." It will be shown that each count of this indictment is incorrect.

(3) The Brisbane Hospital has always, on account of immigration and other causes, had a large fever-department. Outside Germany and after Lyons, it was the first hospital of any size which definitely adopted Brand's system and carried it out systematically in all cases. Consequently there is on hand an abundance of clinical material, more than sufficient indeed definitely to prove the value of