

# **CARBONIC ACID IN MEDICINE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649412853

Carbonic Acid in Medicine by Achilles Rose

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Cover @ 2017

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**ACHILLES ROSE**

**CARBONIC ACID  
IN MEDICINE**



# Atonia Gastrica

By ACHILLES ROSE, M.D., and  
ROBERT COLEMAN KEMP, M.D.

THE object of this book is to present facts which demonstrate the relations of abdominal relaxation to a number of pathological conditions, and to show the importance of these relations in regard to the etiology, pathology, and therapy of the diseases of the stomach, the abdominal organs in general, the organs of respiration, of circulation, and the nervous system. The book also describes and treats on the significance of the plaster strapping as the most rational therapeutic measure.

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"In this volume are considered the diagnosis, symptomatology, treatment, and etiology of abdominal relaxation. Dr. Kemp writes a special chapter on the methods of examination and their relative values, and gives many helpful points in mapping out the stomach. The main portion of the work deals with the adhesive plaster abdominal belt which Dr. Rose originated, and which he clearly proves to be a distinct advance in the means of supporting the abdominal viscera. Plates illustrate the simple and effective method and his selected histories prove its manifold usefulness. There is also a chapter on floating kidney as a closely allied condition. Not only can the reader obtain new knowledge on medical subjects, but also many points on the nomenclature of diseases to which the profession gives but too scant attention."—*N. Y. Medical Record.*

"I have no doubt of the value of your contribution to the therapeutics of the stomach. . . . I wish you every success in promulgating your very sound doctrines."—*D. B. St. John Roota, M.D.*

"I find it most interesting and instructive. But one great charm it has is that it is easy to read which reflects credit to its authors. The publishers, too, are to be congratulated on the style of the volume which is most tasteful."—*C. J. Patterson, M.D., Manhattan State Hospital, Ward's Island, New York.*

12mo, Cloth, Illustrated, 225 pp. \$1.00, net; by Mail, \$1.09

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY, Pubs., NEW YORK





JAN BAPTISTE VAN HELMONT  
(1577-1644)

1905

## PREFACE

AMONG the transactions of the Congress of Balneologists which met in Berlin from March 9 to March 13, 1905, perhaps the most important were the papers read by Homberger and Fellner on the effect of carbonic-acid baths. These two papers are certainly the best which have been written on the physiological action of carbonic acid externally applied. They present investigations of Winternitz, Fellner, Homberger, and others, which furnish a scientific basis for a number of facts, thus far only empirical. These publications, of which I have availed myself, reached me just in time before I placed the manuscript of this book in the hands of the typographer.

The history of carbonic acid in medicine is very little known. At least, text-books hardly speak of it. The material for the historical sketch here given I found in great part in French and German books not translated into English. Among these was Lavoisier, "Mé-



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thode de nomenclature chimique. *Mémoire sur la nécessité de réformer la nomenclature de la chimie,* lu à l'Assemblée publique de l'Académie Royale des Sciences du 18 Avril 1787. This precious and probably rare book I found in the New York Academy of Medicine. It had formerly belonged to the library of the New York Hospital. Some of my readers will be pleased to have their attention called to it.

In writing the chapter on the Physiology and Chemistry of Respiration I availed myself of Hammarsten, "Lehrbuch der physiologischen Chemie." Several chapters are to some extent a reproduction of papers published by me during the last twenty-two years. The observations on the value of carbonic acid in dysentery, rhinitis, vomiting in pregnancy, and the solution of the problem of curing rectal fistula without operation I am confident will be confirmed in time, in spite of misocainia, with which we have to reckon when presenting a new subject.

I desire to express my gratitude first of all to Dr. E. C. Dent, the Medical Superintendent of Manhattan State Hospital, Wards Island,

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for his courtesy in permitting me to introduce carbonic-acid-gas baths in his institution, and to the members of the staff of Manhattan State Hospital, among these especially my friend Dr. R. C. Kemp. They all aided me generously in my investigations. I wish to express my thanks also to my colleagues of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School: Drs. Thomas E. Satterthwaite, Duncan Macpherson, and Frank Newton Irwin, who took an active interest in my modest labors.

Friends have asked me how I came to devote myself to the study of carbonic acid. This question always brought to my mind an anamnesis: the memory of my dear old friend Mr. Thomas Warker who early excited my interest in it. During the last decades of his life he had been industrious and indefatigable in inventing contrivances for the application of carbonic acid. His personal relations to Demarquay had inspired him with enthusiastic faith in the future of carbonic acid in medicine.

A. ROSE.

NEW YORK, August 20, 1905.

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