

GOUT AND ITS CURE

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J. COMPTON BURNETT

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5-5 1733

BY

J. COMPTON BURNETT, M. D.

"Das, was die Exkremente macht, was die *Fæces* im Leibe macht, die Du *Humores* heissest, dieselbe sind nicht die Krankheit. Das ist die Krankheit, die dasselbe macht, dass es also wird. Wer seihet dasselbe? Niemand. Wer greift es? Niemand. Wie kann denn ein Arzt *in humoribus* die Krankheit suchen und ihren Ursprung meiden aus denselben, dieweil sie von der Krankheit werden geboren, und nicht die Krankheit von ihnen?"—НОУКЕННЕМ.

PHILADELPHIA:
BOERICKE & TAFEL.
1895.

PREFACE.



FOR the successful treatment of Gout it is necessary to have a clear idea of what constitutes its various parts; notably must we differentiate between its pre-deposit symptoms and its post-deposit symptoms, for much of the want of success in its cure is due to a mixing-up of the two sets of symptoms. The symptoms that precede and lead up to the uric acid retentions in the blood are a series by themselves; those due to the uric acid in the blood and which lead up to the gouty deposit as an attack, or as chronic deposits, are a second series. The former really spell arthritic cacopepsia, while the latter are synonymous with uric acid poisoning; in the one we deal with the producing power, in the other with the product.

This differentiation being made, we proceed on two lines with the treatment,—the one to get rid of the gouty attack and the deposits, and the other, the more important, to deal with that which leads to the production of the uric material.

The following pages are intended to set forth the writer's method of procedure.

J. COMPTON BURNETT.

86 WIMPOLE STREET, W.,

January, 1895.



GOUT AND ITS CURE.

THE various conditions known or thought to be manifestations of gout lie on either side of every medical path, and most medical practitioners have to deal with them in some form or another. Gout in this country is so common, that not a few persons are in the habit of treating their gouty attacks with their family doctor's favorite preparation of *Colchicum*, aided, or supposedly aided, by a liver-pill and alkalies, such as lithia, potash, or soda. Most of us have our own

notions of the right diet for the gouty; and as to drinkables, a smart lady in the North once remarked to me (on hearing me tell my patient to drink Scotch whisky well diluted with water), "Oh! I see you are a *Scotch*-whisky doctor. It seems to me that the only difference between you gout doctors lies in the kind of whisky you order; you order Scotch, and Dr. Moore used to order Irish. I often tell papa that if I were he I would drink both, and then he would be sure to be right." The sting of the remark lay in the fact that I had the local reputation of being strongly opposed to alcohol in any and every form, notably in the treatment of gout, and the partial modification of my views

came about in this wise:—I was once attending a country squire for an inflamed knee, when his aged father-in-law, the late Sir Edward X., then over 80 years of age, came over to see him. While there on a visit, he had a smart attack of gout, which I was called upon to treat, but my *Aconite* and *Bryonia* did not help either him or me. *Colchicum* I would not give, and, moreover, I did not allow him any alcohol at all. I had been taught that alcohol made gout, and so I felt it to be my duty to get rid of the cause first, and then the feverishness was met by the *Aconite*, and the pains and swelling by *Bryonia* (pains worse from movement). All that seemed simple enough; only Sir Edward got worse, and told me

very plainly that he did not believe in my new-fangled treatment of gout at all, exclaiming, "My little doctor always gets me round in a week or ten days." Said little doctor was telegraphed for, and sure enough he had Sir Edward out driving in the park in about a week.

What was the little doctor's treatment? Port wine!

Said he to me: "You see, Sir Edward's not really a strong man and never was, although he has held on a pretty big span; still he is really a weak man, and he never could stand anything unless you stoked him up a bit."

How long has Sir Edward been your patient?