

**REPRINT OF TWO TRACTS: 1. AN  
ESSAY ON GLEETS, PP. 2-21; 2. AN  
ENQUIRY INTO THE NATURE,  
CAUSE, AND CURE OF A SINGULAR  
DISEASE OF THE EYES, PP. 25-45**

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**JEAN PAUL MARAT**

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*This Edition consists of 84 copies, of which  
75 copies are for sale.*

*This is No. 78*

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TWO  
MEDICAL TRACTS

BY  
J. P. MARAT, M.D.



# Reprint of Two Tracts

1. AN ESSAY ON GLEETS.
2. AN ENQUIRY INTO THE NATURE,  
CAUSE, AND CURE OF A SINGULAR DISEASE  
OF THE EYES.

By JEAN PAUL MARAT, M.D.

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

JAMES BLAKE BAILEY

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## INTRODUCTION

THE two tracts here reprinted were written in English by Jean Paul Marat during his residence in Church Street, Soho, where he practised as a Physician.

Both of the tracts are exceedingly rare. Speaking of the former one, Mr. Morse Stephens, in his article on "Marat" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*,<sup>1</sup> says, "no copy is to be found." Since the date of Mr. Stephens's notice of Marat a copy has come to light, and is now in the possession of Dr. J. F. Payne. Of the latter tract there is only one known copy: this is in the Library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. I have to thank the Council of the Society and Dr. Payne for their kindness in allowing copies of the pamphlets to be made for the purpose of publication.

The first tract is dedicated to the Worshipful Company of Surgeons in London, and is dated November 1775. As the type is broken the day of the month cannot be read with certainty in the copy from which this was reprinted: there is no other known copy to which reference can be

<sup>1</sup> Ninth edition, vol. xv. p. 526.

made. The date is either the 21st or 24th: as regards the month and the year there is no doubt. The second tract has an address to the Royal Society, and is dated January 1st, 1776: as Marat returned to Paris in 1777 both these works were issued towards the end of his residence in London.

A few months before the publication of the *Essay on Gleets*, Marat had received an M.D. degree from the University of St. Andrews. The degree was equivalent to an honorary one, and, as was the custom of the time, was given on the recommendation of two medical men known to the Senate. The two who recommended Marat were Hugh James and William Buchan, doctors of medicine in Edinburgh. Marat passed no examination for the degree, and probably did not even go to St. Andrews to receive it. At that time it was customary to forward the Diploma on receipt of the graduation fee. Mr. Morse Stephens<sup>1</sup> is of opinion that Marat received degrees from other universities, because in 1777 on his appointment as physician to the body-guard of the Comte d'Artois he is described as "docteur en médecine de plusieurs facultés d'Angleterre." It may, however, be pointed out that at this date there were very few universities or faculties granting an M.D. degree, and also that the older universities did not

<sup>1</sup> *Academy*, September 23, 1882.