

**PUBLIC HEALTH: A  
POPULAR INTRODUCTION  
TO SANITARY SCIENCE**

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Public health: a popular introduction to sanitary science by William A. Guy

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**WILLIAM A. GUY**

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

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# PUBLIC HEALTH:

A

POPULAR INTRODUCTION

TO

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ENGLISH POPULATION FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE  
END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

BY

WILLIAM A. GUY,

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FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;

PROFESSOR OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND HYGIENE IN KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.

&c. &c. &c.

HENRY RENSHAW,  
356, STRAND, LONDON.

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1870.

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TO

ROBERT CHEERE, Esquire,

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON, AND TREASURER OF  
KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL,

THESE LECTURES ARE DEDICATED

AS A TRIBUTE OF SINCERE ESTEEM AND AFFECTIONATE REGARD

BY

THE AUTHOR.

## PREFACE.

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THE eight lectures I have so recently delivered at King's College are here printed, somewhat condensed, but otherwise little altered.

In compiling them, as in printing them, I have been actuated by the belief that the Science of Hygiène is imperfectly appreciated, because some are ignorant, others unmindful, of the rich benefits it has lavished upon us in times past. I have accordingly endeavoured to remove the existing ignorance or indifference by submitting the facts of the case in such a form that they may commend themselves to the members of my own profession as true and yet not trite; to the public as interesting in themselves, and supremely important in their practical applications.

The title I have adopted indicates of itself the wish by which I have been actuated to combine a scientific with a popular treatment of my subject. Whether I have succeeded in so difficult an undertaking must be left to the judgment of others.

In treating my subject after the historic method, I wish it to be understood that I have chosen rather to present a connected series of faithful abstracts of the chief works of our great sanitary historians and reformers, with facts and

figures taken direct from the London Bills of Mortality, than to settle disputed questions by weighing one authority against another. I must also state that, in omitting minute references to authorities, I have been solely influenced by the wish to fit my work for continuous uninterrupted reading. Nevertheless I believe that the chief sources of the information I have brought together and condensed will be found sufficiently indicated for every useful purpose.

If I may be allowed to commend one lecture rather than another to the attention of philanthropists and statesmen, it is the seventh, in which, as I believe, I have rightly estimated the character and works of John Howard.

Let me add that, for the reasons assigned, I have wished to place in the hands of the public a cheap and attractive volume; and that in that wish I have been well seconded both by publisher and printer.

26, GORDON STREET,

*May, 1870.*