

HAY FEVER; ITS PREVENTION AND CURE

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Hay Fever; Its Prevention and Cure by Perry Dickie

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PERRY DICKIE

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BY

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DEDICATION.

To the vast army of hay fever sufferers this little volume is inscribed. Victims of a complaint making their nights hideous, as well as their days a period of discomfort, on account of the recollections of the past, as well as the anticipation of possible future trials and tribulations which are to be expected from this malady if allowed to pursue its course unchecked.

For the benefit of such as these this book is put forth with the hopes that success will follow its teachings.



PREFACE.

Considering the wide-spread prevalence of hay fever, and the large number of individuals afflicted with it, we cannot but marvel that there has been, comparatively, so little written upon the subject. In fact, it has been severely let alone by the profession who seem to prefer to treat their cases as they come along, in a haphazard sort of way, chiefly with palliatives, and they are largely assisted by luck and wise and beneficent mother nature, who always does her best for the patient's cure. When the matter becomes too troublesome these practitioners avail themselves of their usual prerogative of prescribing a sojourn at some resort frequented by this class of sufferers. In this way a knotty problem is disposed of for the nonce, and at the same time they inwardly congratulate themselves on their escape from an exceedingly unpleasant dilemma, then and there with the fervent hope that of all future patients none would be afflicted with this obstinate and soul-trying complaint.

Our medical journals teem with that which is absolutely useless, except to the small minority, and they could well spare a little room, at least once in a while, for something of a practical nature pertaining to this subject. But as a high-sounding title to an article makes a much more pretentious appearance than so plebeian a subject as hay fever, such lowering of one's dignity is not to be expected of the average human being with aspirations to shine professionally.

As it is a matter of common occurrence with which we all have wrestled so often, and in not a few cases with a lack of success, we are loth to lay bare our failures to the light of day.

It has been suggested as an explanation of this tendency to "high flying" that a paper dealing with a vague or abstruse topic and the lack of a general understanding of the subject, protects one in a large measure from—as it is expressed in common parlance—being "hauled over the coals" for a possible error or discrepancy committed in an article of this kind.

It is true that some sporadic and widely scattered writing upon the subject of hay fever has been indulged in from time to

time, but considering its importance we must admit that the study of this disease has been very much neglected by the medical profession as a body.

Actuated by such a condition of affairs, the writer ventures to enter upon this comparatively untrodden path, hoping that what he may put forth upon this subject will be of some value, and by no means regarded as a futile attempt to enlarge its exceedingly meagre extent in the field of literature.