

**CONSTIPATION,  
HYPOCHONDRIASIS, AND  
HYSTERIA:  
THEIR MODERN TREATMENT,  
WITH NUMEROUS CASES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649477876

Constipation, Hypochondriasis, and Hysteria: Their Modern Treatment, With Numerous Cases  
by Richard Epps

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**RICHARD EPPS**

**CONSTIPATION,  
HYPOCHONDRIASIS, AND  
HYSTERIA:  
THEIR MODERN TREATMENT,  
WITH NUMEROUS CASES**



CONSTIPATION,  
66945  
HYPOCHONDRIASIS,

AND

HYSTERIA:

THEIR MODERN TREATMENT.

BY

RICHARD EPPS, M.D.,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

With Numerous Cases.

SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.

LONDON: JAMES EPPS AND CO.,  
170 PICCADILLY AND 48 THREADNEEDLE STREET.

MDCCCLXXIV.

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

---

Two years have sufficed to exhaust the first edition of this work. This is worthy of notice ; for not only was it a special book on a special subject, but a larger edition was printed than usual. The work was also very favourably received in America. Its success shows that the writer has interested the general reader, as well as the professional.

I have merely to add that this edition has not only been re-arranged and carefully revised, but that it has been enlarged by the addition of fresh matter ; so that there are, as a matter of fact, more pages in it than there were in the first, although the Appendix of the latter has been left out.

RICHARD EPPS.

*March 1874.*

89 GREAT RUSSELL STREET,  
BLOOMSBURY SQUARE, LONDON.

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

---

THE only introductory remarks that are called for on the present occasion, relate to the scope of the present work.

I offer no excuse for presenting it to the notice of the profession, or to that of the general reader, for, as has been observed by an eminent surgeon, he who thinks he can produce any benefit to society, needs not to be anxious about an apology for the publication of his ideas.

Of the importance of constipation as a symptom, no two opinions are possible, for it is one which accompanies the majority of diseases. He who can treat disease in general the best, will be most successful in the treatment of the symptom constipation, in particular; and, *vice versa*, he who can cure constipation, will be most successful in the treatment of diseases of which it is a characteristic. I have shown, and I think successfully, in the course of the present work, that this is just what the giver of purgatives—the true symptom-monger—does not do; what he does do is fully explained in the present work.

*Hypochondriasis* and *Hysteria* are two diseases which are notably characterized by constipation. They are both of obscure, or, to speak more correctly, of deep-seated, origin, and have neither of them received that attention at the hands of the profession which their importance and their frequent occurrence claim. I have gone at some length into the question of their causes and treatment. I will only add, that the treatment of the especial (all-important) variety of the former disease, advocated by me in these pages, is *sui generis*, and has proved highly successful in my hands.

I have devoted a chapter to the consideration of the treatment of piles without operation.

The thirty-eight cases, which are fully recorded in the present work, prove, I think conclusively, the efficiency of the treatment recommended.

89 GREAT RUSSELL STREET,  
BLOOMSBURY SQUARE, LONDON.

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

### WHAT IS CONSTIPATION ?

	PAGE
Digestion and Daily Action of the Bowels, . . . . .	9
Diarrhoea and Purging, . . . . .	10
Constipation, . . . . .	10
Cancer of the Rectum, Case 1, . . . . .	11
Costiveness, Case 2, . . . . .	11
Confined Bowels, . . . . .	11
Prolonged Action (Partial Atony) of the Bowels, Case 3, . . . . .	12
Note on Cauterization, . . . . .	13
Irregular Action of the Bowels, Case 4, . . . . .	13
Natural Constipation, . . . . .	17
Partial Paralysis and Progressive Locomotor Ataxy, . . . . .	17
Atony of the Rectum, Case 5 (also 6 and 7), . . . . .	17
Lavements and Rectal Paralysis, Case 7, . . . . .	22
Paralytic Fæcal and Urinary Retention, Case 7, . . . . .	22
Constipation from Mechanical Obstructions of the Rectum, . . . . .	26

## CHAPTER II.

### CAUSES, EFFECTS, AND CONCOMITANTS OF CONSTIPATION.

Want of Tone, . . . . .	27
Affections characterized by Constipation, . . . . .	28
Pleurisy and Constipation, Case 8, . . . . .	29
Headache and Constipation, Case 9, . . . . .	31
Fever, Constipation, and Cancer of the Rectum, Case 10, . . . . .	33
Affections of the Pelvic Viscera and Constipation, . . . . .	34
Effects of Habits of Life on the Bowels, . . . . .	35
Lead Poisoning ( <i>Colica Pictorum</i> ), and Constipation, . . . . .	37
Painters' Colic, Case 11, . . . . .	37



## CHAPTER III.

## REMARKS ON PURGATIVES.

	PAGE
What are Purgatives? Purgings and Diarrhoea, . . . . .	39
Sir T. Watson on Diarrhoea, . . . . .	40
The Secondary Effects of Purgatives—Action and Reaction, . . . . .	41
Delirium Tremens, . . . . .	41
Purgatives considered as Causes of Constipation, . . . . .	42
Constipation and Cocker's Pills, Case 12, . . . . .	43
M. Leclère and Dr Ringer on Purgatives, . . . . .	45
Treatment of Diarrhoea with Purgatives—Why Purgatives do not cure Constipation—Palliative Treatment—Enemas and Paralysis of the Rectum, . . . . .	50
Purgative and Sedative Treatment of Colic and Constipation, . . . . .	51
How Opium cures Constipation, . . . . .	51
Dangers of Purgings for Colic, Case 13, . . . . .	52
Artificial Chronic Constipation, Case 14, . . . . .	56
Dr Hamilton on Purgings, . . . . .	58
Rheumatic Gout and Constipation, Case 15, . . . . .	58
Rheumatic Fever and Constipation, Case 16, . . . . .	61

## CHAPTER IV.

## TREATMENT.

Diseases characterized by Constipation; two divisions, . . . . .	62
Curative and Palliative (Purgative) Treatment, . . . . .	63
What a Remedy for Constipation should do, . . . . .	63
Specific Treatment of Diseases and <i>Similia similibus curantur</i> , . . . . .	63
How to practise Homœopathy safely—State of Transition, . . . . .	64
The Anatomist Knox, . . . . .	64
Remarks on Doses—Theory and Practice, . . . . .	64
What is the best Dose?—My own Rule of Practice, . . . . .	65
Self-Treatment of Constipation, . . . . .	66
Remarks on Diet and Hygiene—Exercise—Baths—Enemas, etc., . . . . .	67

## CHAPTER V.

## FILES OR HÆMORRHOIDS.

Nature of Hæmorrhoids, . . . . .	70
Internal (bleeding) Hæmorrhoids, . . . . .	70

	PAGE
External (non-bleeding) Hæmorrhoids, . . . . .	70
The Portal System of Veins and the Liver, . . . . .	71
Internal (bleeding) Piles and Constipation, Case 17, . . . . .	71
"                        Case 18, . . . . .	74
Bleeding " Piles and Constipation, Case 19, . . . . .	74
Constipation and Piles, Case 20, . . . . .	75
Internal (bleeding) Piles and Constipation, Case 21, . . . . .	76

## CHAPTER VI.

## CONSTIPATION OF WOMEN.

Curious Facts about Constipation with Women, . . . . .	77
Constipation in Pregnancy, . . . . .	78
Accompanying Symptoms of Constipation, . . . . .	78
Hysteria, . . . . .	78
Diet, . . . . .	79
Hygiene, . . . . .	79
Cold Water and Baths, . . . . .	80
Enemas, . . . . .	80
Medical Treatment, . . . . .	81

## CHAPTER VII.

## ADDITIONAL CASES.

Case 22. Arthritis and Abscess of the Knees Joint; Obstinate Constipation from Purgatives—Cured, . . . . .	83
" 23. Dyspepsia, Colic (14 years), and Constipation—Cured, . . . . .	86
" 24. Obstinate Constipation, from the continued use of Purgatives—Greatly relieved, . . . . .	88
" 25. No Action without a Purgative, in a Youth—Cured, . . . . .	88
" 26. Obstinate Constipation; Agonizing Flatulent Dyspepsia—Cured, . . . . .	89
" 27. Dyspepsia and Constipation—Cured, . . . . .	89
" 28. Dyspepsia and great Irregularity of the Bowels—Relieved, . . . . .	90
" 29. Worms and Constipation—Cured, . . . . .	90
" 30. Chronic Eruption on the Skin (Pityriasis), and Habitual Constipation—Cured, . . . . .	91
" 31. Scrofula and Constipation—Much benefited, . . . . .	91

	PAGE
Case 32. Heart Affection; Neuralgia of the Face, Head, and Neck; Threatening Paralysis; Constipation—Cured,	92
„ 33. Heart Affection and Constipation—Greatly benefited,	92
„ 34. Gonorrhœa and Constipation—Cured,	93
„ 35. Affection of the Kidneys, with Headache and Constipation—Cured,	93
„ 36. Uterine Affection, with Obstinate Constipation—Cured,	94

## CHAPTER VIII.

## HYSTERIA.

Hysteria and Constipation,	96
Hysterical Paroxysms and Epilepsy,	96
General Ignorance about Hysteria,	97
Causes of Hysteria,	97
Hysteria and Obstinate Constipation, Case 37,	98
Hysteria and Imaginary Ailments, Case 38,	99
Hysterical Anorexia (loss of appetite), Cases,	101

## CHAPTER IX.

## HYPOCHONDRIASIS.

Its Importance,	103
Universal Ignorance concerning its Nature,	103
Its Curability depends upon its Cause,	104
Cullen's definition of Hypochondriasis,	104
Influence of Age,	105
Real Cause of Hypochondriasis,	106
Costiveness and Hypochondriasis,	106
Sexes and Hypochondriasis,	106
Mental (Suicidal) Depression from Costiveness, Case 39,	107
Importance of Correct Diagnosis; Phimosia, Case 40,	109
Sexual Hypochondriasis, Case 41,	110
Epilepsy and Hypochondriasis,	114
Strictures, Heart Disease, and Hypochondriasis, Case 42—Cured,	115
Urethral Irritability, Stammering, and Hypochondriasis, Case 43—Cured,	119
Hypochondriasis, Constipation, and Ringworm, Case 44,	121
M. Lallemand's Porte-caustique,	124