

**AN ESSAY ON THE
DISEASES OF THE JAWS,
AND THEIR TREATMENT**

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An Essay on the Diseases of the Jaws, and Their Treatment by Leonard Koecker

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AN ESSAY

ON THE

DISEASES OF THE JAWS,

AND

Their Treatment;

WITH

OBSERVATIONS ON THE AMPUTATION

OF A PART

OR

The whole of the Inferior Maxilla :

TENDING

TO PROVE THAT SUCH OPERATION IS SELDOM,
IF EVER, NECESSARY.

With Two Plates.

BY

LEONARD KOECKER,

Surgeon-Dentist,

DOCTOR IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY; MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL AND LINNÆAN
SOCIETIES, AND OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCE OF PHILADELPHIA,

AND

AUTHOR OF THE "PRINCIPLES OF DENTAL SURGERY,"
ETC. ETC. ETC.



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TO

SIR HEN. HALFORD, BART. K.C.H.

M.D. F.R.S. F.A.S.

**PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
PHYSICIAN IN ORDINARY TO THE KING,
ETC. ETC. ETC.**

SIR,

THE liberal manner in which you have done me the honour to receive this small Essay under your professional protection is, at the same time, most grateful to my feelings, and an evidence of the lively interest you take, not only in the advancement of the Science of Medicine in that important department, of which you have so long been the most distinguished member, but also in every other branch of the Healing Art.

The elevated rank you hold in the Medical profession, and the exalted station to which your distinguished merits have most deservedly raised you, as well as the urba-

In publishing this small Essay, I may be accused of a presumptuous attempt to treat on a subject which does not belong to my particular province; this, I trust however, will be deemed erroneous, when it is considered that, although in their later and more complicated stages the maladies of the jaws require the united aid of general surgery and medicine, they strictly, in their earlier forms, belong to the practice of dentistry, and never would require the assistance of the former, if the latter were judiciously afforded at a proper period.

There is, moreover, a considerable difficulty in deciding at what period the exclusive treatment of the teeth becomes insufficient, and when the surgical and medical agencies are indispensably required; an inconvenience which can only be removed by affording all branches of the healing art the means of acquiring the most comprehensive views of the history, nature, and causes of the diseases in question.

That the dental surgeon has the best, and

most extensive practical opportunities of observing and watching these maladies through their different stages can scarcely be denied, and he may, therefore, fairly be regarded as not unqualified to give such a complete account of his pathological and practical observations, as may be most useful in their elucidation. These reasons, combined with the nature and intricacy of the subject, will, I trust, sufficiently apologize not only for the liberty I have taken in publishing this Essay, but also for having treated the subject in a more extensive manner than, under other circumstances, might appear necessary.

Many of the remarks which it comprises are the result of repeated and unprejudiced observations and reflexion; and it is the conviction I entertain of their practical utility, which induces me to hope that they will not be deemed undeserving of the notice of the medical profession at large. Under this impression, I feel it my duty no longer to delay their publication, and whatever may be the literary imperfections

of my work, I doubt not it will meet with every indulgence due to the peculiar circumstances of its author, assured as I am, that the best and purest intentions can never be misinterpreted by the liberal and enlightened British public, so justly celebrated for its philanthropy and good feelings towards every citizen of the world.