

**THE LANGUAGE OF MEDICINE: A
MANUAL GIVING THE ORIGIN,
ETYMOLOGY, PRONUNCIATION, AND
MEANING OF THE TECHNICAL TERMS
FOUND IN MEDICAL LITERATURE. [1888]**

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The Language of Medicine: A Manual Giving the Origin, Etymology, Pronunciation, and Meaning of the Technical Terms Found in Medical Literature. [1888] by F. R. Campbell

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F. R. CAMPBELL

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ETYMOLOGY, PRONUNCIATION, AND MEANING OF
THE TECHNICAL TERMS FOUND IN
MEDICAL LITERATURE

BY

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1888

TO

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EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO.

IN HOMAGE TO HIS RIPE SCHOLARSHIP, HIS GENIUS
AS A SURGEON, AND HIS SKILL AS A TEACHER, THIS
BOOK IS GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED BY HIS FORMER PUPIL,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE object of this work is to provide the medical student with a suitable means of acquiring the vocabulary of his science. Like Shakespeare, the great majority of medical students have but "small Latine and lesse Greeke." Even those who have enjoyed the advantages of literary colleges are often unable to apply their knowledge of the classical languages in determining the etymology and meaning of ordinary medical words, partly because the classics are studied more from a literary than a philological point of view, but largely because the words most used in medical works seldom appear in the Latin and Greek with which they are familiar.

In studying mathematics or grammar the pupil begins with definitions of the new words to be employed. In medicine, also, much valuable time could be saved if the student would first master the meaning of the technical terms by which the principles of the science are to be carried into his mind. The words must be understood before thoughts which they convey can be comprehended. In the first part of this work are discussed many of the elementary principles of philology and etymology, illustrated by common words occurring in medical literature. Coleridge has said that we may often derive more useful knowledge from the history of a word than from the history of a campaign. In medicine we may often obtain more practical benefit from the study of some word with an account of the errors involved therein, than from the study of a new theory which rises like a balloon only to burst like a bubble. A brief history of medicine, from a linguistic

point of view, is given in order that the sources of our technical words may be known.

In part second will be found the majority of the Latin words used in medical works. The principles of Latin grammar which are employed in nomenclature and prescription writing are discussed and exercises for translation are given in order that the student may fix the words and grammatical principles in his mind.

The subject of orthoepy is incidentally discussed and a list of many words commonly mispronounced is given. The majority of these have been collected in the class-room, but many, very many, have been mispronounced by medical society orators and college professors who have persisted in propagating their orthoepical blunders through the medical profession until one hesitates before pronouncing some words correctly for fear of being misunderstood.

In part third will be found the principal words of Greek origin with a description of the method of converting Greek words into Latin and English. In part fourth are collected the majority of the words transferred from the modern foreign languages into our medical vocabulary. In determining the correct etymology of words the author has, in the main, followed Curtius, Skeat, and Halsey. But philologists, like doctors, sometimes disagree, and in these cases the writer has selected what appeared to him the most reasonable derivation.

It may be urged that this work should have been undertaken by a professor of the languages rather than by a physician. But the teacher of languages knows comparatively little of the real needs and defects of the average medical student, while a physician reasonably familiar with the ancient and modern languages is able to apply his linguistic knowledge in

پیش از این کتاب در دسترس
نشد و این کتاب را
در دسترس
نشد

PREFACE.

a manner at once more interesting and instructive to the medical student.

In conclusion, the author must acknowledge his indebtedness to the following authors, for without their aid the preparation of this book would have been an impossibility:—

- ANDREWS, *Latin-English Lexicon.*
- BIONDELLI, *Studii Linguistici.*
- BRACHET, *Dictionaire Etymologique de la Langue Francaise*
- CURTIUS, *Grundsaege der Griechischen Etymologie.*
- DARMESTER, *Life of Words as the Symbols of Ideas.*
- Encyclopaedia Britannica.*
- FARRAR, *Origin of Language.*
- HALSEY, *Etymology of Latin and Greek.*
- LIDDELL and SCOTT, *Greek-English Lexicon.*
- DR. MEREDITH, *Errors of Speech.*
- PAIREIRA, *Physicians' Prescription Book.*
- SKEAT, *Etymological English Dictionary.*
- THOMAS, *Medical Dictionary.*
- TRENCH, *On the Study of Words.*
- WHITNEY, *Language and the Study of Language.*

FREDERICK R. CAMPBELL.

BUFFALO, N. Y., January, 1883.

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