

THE NERVES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649372935

The Nerves by Henry Belcher

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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HENRY BELCHER

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BEING

A Few Practical Observations

ON THE MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF SOME OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT AND DISTRESSING AFFECTIONS OF
THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

BY

DR. HENRY BELCHER.

*Quædam labuntur mente; quædam composes sui contentitur se urgere
dolore nervorum.*

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.



London:

E. GOULD & SON,

59, MOORGATE STREET, CITY, E.C., AND 20, BISHOP'S ROAD, W.

Brighton:

J. BEAL & CO., 55, EAST STREET.

—
1878.

151. m. 415.

BRINGTON;
PRINTED BY JOHN BEAL & CO.,
65, EAST STREET.

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. This section also highlights the need for regular audits and reviews to ensure that all data is up-to-date and correctly recorded.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the implementation of robust internal controls and risk management strategies. It outlines various measures that can be taken to prevent fraud, mismanagement, and other potential risks. These include the establishment of clear policies and procedures, the appointment of independent auditors, and the implementation of a strong ethical framework. The document also discusses the importance of training and education for all staff members to ensure they are aware of and adhere to these controls.

3. The third part of the document addresses the need for effective communication and collaboration between different departments and stakeholders. It stresses that clear and consistent communication is vital for the successful execution of any project or initiative. This involves the use of regular meetings, reports, and other communication channels to keep everyone informed and engaged. The document also highlights the importance of listening to feedback and being open to suggestions for improvement.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of continuous improvement and innovation. It notes that organizations should not be satisfied with the status quo and should always be looking for ways to enhance their processes and services. This can be achieved through the adoption of new technologies, the implementation of best practices, and the encouragement of a culture of innovation and creativity. The document also emphasizes the need for regular evaluation and assessment of performance to identify areas for improvement and to ensure that the organization is meeting its goals and objectives.

5. The fifth and final part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers some concluding thoughts. It reiterates the importance of the measures outlined and encourages all stakeholders to take action to implement these recommendations. The document also expresses confidence that these measures will lead to a more efficient, transparent, and accountable organization.

INTRODUCTION.

AFTER labouring for nearly thirty long years in the vineyard of medicine, I am advised by my friends that it would be of public advantage were I to formulate, however roughly, some of the conclusions to which I have been led by experience and observation. It has been urged upon me, that, having been somewhat successful in the treatment of diseases affecting the nerves, I owe it as a duty to Society, now that I have attained my meridian, to throw all the light I can upon my special subject—to which I have devoted the energies of a lifetime. An appeal thus urged upon me, I feel unable to resist, conscious although I am of my own inability to do full justice to myself, still less to a theme of prime importance in an age of high-pressure civilisation; and I therefore enter on the task thus imposed upon me, pleading that a sincere desire to alleviate the sufferings of my fellow-creatures may prove sufficient apology for any shortcomings on my part. I can, in truth, adopt as my own, the sentiment of Terence, "A man myself, I feel for all mankind."

At the present epoch in the history of medicine a host of well-intentioned works are constantly issuing from the Press, which from their incomprehensible and complicated character, seem designed solely to furnish material for discussion on some abstruse point, such as, *e.g.*, the therapeutical action of drugs. In this respect medicine seems to resemble the two other liberal professions, since it is by no means clear that divines of different schools have been unanimous in their definition of the same theological terms, whilst some of the most eminent among the gentlemen of the long robe have actually differed as to the precise line of demarcation between justice and injustice. If then uncertainty attaches to the sciences of Divinity and Law, is it not most illiberal and ungenerous that Physic should be so bitterly reproached in the person of any practitioner who, from a conscientious conviction, steps out of the orthodox path? This obstinate insistence on the infallibility of the pathologists of the past seems to me to resemble cavilling over the peculiar character of some pretty little shell on the sea shore, whilst the great ocean of truth lies all undiscovered. Surely the inevitable evils of life are sufficiently numerous to admit of varied treatment, and he must have a very weak head, or a very bad heart, who can seriously propose to increase the terrible aggregate by ignoring methods of cure which have already stood the test of experience. It is an inexplicable incongruity for a sentient being to do or say anything knowingly that will give pain to another; but

it is beyond measure astonishing that any one can divest himself of pity for those who partake of the same nature with himself. No valid excuse can ever be pleaded for callousness, or for neglecting to alleviate the sufferings of others when we have the power. I am, therefore, justified in doing as I would other members of my profession would do—viz., in bringing under the notice of all whom it may concern, plainly and clearly, the results of my own personal observations and extended experience in the treatment and management of some of the most important diseases to which our frail frames are subject. Moreover, having during the whole of my professional career given a certain portion of my time to the service of the poor—a labour of love I hope still to be able to continue—and consequently having had frequent opportunity of witnessing and treating a vast number of the most distressing cases that can come under the notice of the physician—viz., diseases and disorganisation of the nervous system—I feel less difficulty in putting pen to paper, since I am in a position to bring forward the testimony of friends who have been eye witnesses of the results of some of my cases. Nevertheless, the very fact of my having frequently to use the first person—an unavoidable yet disagreeable necessity—leads me to apprehend that I may be charged with self-seeking or other unworthy motives. I shall, however, console myself with the conviction that I seek no fame, nor have I any personal ambition to gratify. In fact, I am keenly alive to the very responsible position