

**FASTING GIRLS:
THEIR PHYSIOLOGY
AND PATHOLOGY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649372942

Fasting Girls: Their Physiology and Pathology by William A. Hammond

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WILLIAM A. HAMMOND

**FASTING GIRLS:
THEIR PHYSIOLOGY
AND PATHOLOGY**

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FASTING GIRLS;

THEIR PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY

BY

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M.D.

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NEW YORK, AND IN THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, ETC.

"There is no new thing under the Sun."

—*Ecl.* I, 9.

"Nil spernat auris, nec tamen credat statim."

—*PHÆDRUS.*

NEW YORK
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
182 FIFTH AVENUE
1879



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1879.



PREFACE.

In issuing this little book I have been actuated by a desire to do something towards the removal of a lamentable degree of popular ignorance.

It seems that no proposition that can be made is so absurd or impossible but that many people, ordinarily regarded as intelligent, will be found to accept it and to aid in its propagation. And hence, when it is asserted that a young lady has lived for fourteen years without food of any kind, hundreds and thousands of persons throughout the length and breadth of a civilized land at once yield their belief to the monstrous declaration.

I have confined my remarks entirely to the question of abstinence from food. The other supernatural gifts, the possession of which is claimed, would, if considered, have extended the limits of this little volume beyond the bounds which were deemed expedient. At some future time I may be tempted to discuss them. In the meantime it is well to call to mind that a proposition (*see Appendix*) which I made solely in the interest of truth was disregarded, ostensibly with the desire to avoid publicity, when in fact the daily press had for weeks been filled with reports in detail, furnished by the friends of the young lady in question, of the marvellous powers she was said to possess.

A portion of this essay, which bore upon the matter discussed, has been taken from another volume by the author, published several years ago, and now out of print.

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND.

43 WEST 54TH STREET,
MARCH 1st, 1879.

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