THE PEDIGREE OF DISEASE BEING SIX LECTURES ON TEMPERAMENT, IDIOSYNCRASY AND DIATHESIS; DELIVERED IN THE THEATRE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN THE SESSION OF 1881

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JONATHAN HUTCHINSON

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DELIVERED IN THE THEATRE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN THE SESSION OF 1881

BY

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To the Memory

OF

CHARLES DARWIN

THESE LECTURES

ARE

REVERENTLY INSCRIBED.



PREFATORY NOTE.

WITH a few emendations I have reprinted these Lectures just as they were delivered in June, 1881, and as they appeared at the time in one of the medical journals. I am well aware of their many imperfections, but am hopeful that they may be found to point to work in the right direction. It was, indeed, the commendation which this method of dealing with some of the problems of disease received from Sir James Paget, in his Bradshaw Lecture of last year, which induced me to determine on their present publication.



THE PEDIGREE OF DISEASE.

LECTURE I.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.-I fear I do not much mistake in the belief that the subjects which I have ventured to take for my present course of lectures are by no means high in professional favor. Our forefathers, who knew far less about the details of pathology than we do, attached far more importance to such matters as temperament and diathesis. They were accustomed to prescribe for a man's temperament; we think only of his disease, and turn saide with weariness from classifications of diathesis in which the physicians of an older day delighted. Although to a large extent this change of sontiment has been the result of advance in knowledge, yet I think it might easily be shown that it has gone too far, and that we now neglect unwisely the study of those differences between man and man of which, for the most part, physiology takes no cognizance, but which may yet prove of much importance in modifying the processes of disease. It is to this study that I now invite your attention. I have been attracted to it in part by its own intrinsic interest, and in part by the circumstance that it has seemed to be, in some sense, supplementary to the lectures which on former occasions I have had the honor to deliver from this chair. In my first course (three years ago) I investigated the present state of knowledge as to the influence of the nervous system in the production of disease. In the second we examined those remarkable and widelyspread forms of diathesis known respectively as Gout, Rheumatism, and Leprosy. When on these subjects I tried to show that rheumatism is a modification of the catarrhal diathesis, mainly nervous in its origin, in which the stress of the reflex disturbance falls upon the tissues of the