

**NATURE AND
TREATMENT OF
DISEASES OF THE EAR**

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Nature and treatment of diseases of the ear by William Kramer

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WILLIAM KRAMER

**NATURE AND
TREATMENT OF
DISEASES OF THE EAR**

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NATURE AND TREATMENT

OF

DISEASES OF THE EAR.

Wilhelm
BY DR. (WILLIAM) KRAMER.

SECOND EDITION OF THE AUTHOR'S TREATISE ON CHRONIC DEAFNESS,
MUCH IMPROVED AND ENLARGED.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,

WITH THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS OF THE AUTHOR SINCE THE LAST LONDON EDITION,

BY JAMES RISDON BENNETT, M. D.,

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and of the Hunterian and Medical societies of London; and Physician
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1838.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

A systematic treatise on diseases of the ear, at once scientific and practical, has long been felt to be a great desideratum in British medical literature. Believing the treatise of Dr. Kramer to merit the reputation which it has already acquired, to deserve the attention of the profession, and to be calculated to supply an acknowledged deficiency, I have presented it to the public in an English dress.

Accuracy of diagnosis, and luminous descriptions of the diseases of which it treats, are among the chief merits of Dr. Kramer's work. It would not, therefore, have much enhanced the value of the present translation, had I appended to it the views of others, founded on cases the diagnosis of which was deficient. A few instances in which it appeared to me that the author's spirit of criticism (generally very just) had carried him too far, I have deemed it a duty to notice.

The additions with which Dr. Kramer has favoured me, since the publication of the last German edition, have been incorporated with the text.

The last work which has appeared on this subject, is a very elaborate German treatise, by Dr. Chas. Gustavus Lincke, of Leipsic, entitled "A Manual of Theoretical and Practical Acoustic Medicine." The first part, only, is yet published, in a large and very thick octavo volume, comprising the Anatomy, Physiology, and Morbid Anatomy of the ear, illustrated by numerous lithographic plates. I have not had an opportunity of doing more than glance at this volume, whilst the last sheets of the present translation were passing through the press; but this I the less regret, as it does not contain the practical part of the subject.

Our indefatigable German neighbours are evidently rousing themselves to remove the opprobrium that has hitherto attached to acoustic medicine. In our own country the treatment of aural

diseases has fallen almost entirely under the care of a class of persons who have no pretensions to scientific information. All that is required in order to render the treatment of these diseases comparatively satisfactory, and thus restore them to the care of well qualified practitioners, is a little manual dexterity in the introduction of the catheter, and careful local investigation of the affected organ. Hence will result a more deep conviction of the paramount importance of detecting and arresting diseases of the ear at their onset, before they have given rise to those organic changes which are beyond the reach of art. Should the present translation of Dr. Kramer's treatise contribute to these results, I shall feel amply rewarded for my labour.

With respect to the translation, I have endeavoured to be as faithful to the original as was consistent with perspicuity, sacrificing every minor object to that of giving as far as possible the full meaning of the author.

1, *Dalby Terrace, Islington,*
September, 1837.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

Relying on the interest shown by the medical and nonmedical public in my "Practical Observations on the Nature and Treatment of Chronic Deafness," published three years ago, I now venture to put it forth as a new work, much more complete, and I trust, much improved. It is no longer a fragment—a work on the important Chronic Forms of Diseases of the Ear; but an exposition, as complete as possible, of Systematic Acoustic Medicine; for which I am the more desirous of an indulgent reception, in consequence of having myself spared neither time nor pains, in order to render available, for the better understanding of the subject, the mass of materials afforded me by an extensive practice.

The former part, on General Acoustic Medicine, contains, in the first place, a Critical Survey of the literature extant on the subject; in which no one will accuse me of unfairness, for having altogether omitted any notice of many small essays and memoirs, of both ancient and modern date, (*e. g.* the academic writings of Eschke, Daun, Troschel, Lobethal, and others,) on account of their total want of scientific importance. A careful critical examination was, however, indispensably necessary; for the most erroneous views are almost universally entertained, even with regard to the value or worthlessness of many works on acoustic medicine. The censure which I have found it necessary to pass (though this is occasionally given merely in its results) will be found amply confirmed in the respective passages of the second part.

The remaining portion of the former part examines conjointly questions of importance to the General Pathology and Therapeutics of Diseases of the Ear, in which the lamentable errors of both ancient and very recent times, in the treatment of Diseases of the Ear, are distinctly and clearly pointed out.

In this respect, the first part is of the utmost importance to every medical practitioner who wishes to make himself familiar with the

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

manual part of Acoustic Medicine; and without the most accurate knowledge of the manual part, he ought not to treat any disease of the ear, if he would avoid doing injury when he cannot render aid.

The annexed tabular view of the frequency and curability of diseases of the ear, as well on account of its novelty as of the results it affords, will not appear unimportant.

In the second part, containing Special Acoustic Medicine, there is unfolded, in the first three chapters, a comprehensive, and, I trust, natural system of all diseases of the ear, the arrangement of which has been determined according to the structural alterations of the parts of the organ affected.

To a large number of cases, which, with very few exceptions, have been taken from my own journal, I have endeavoured to attach the greatest possible degree of credibility, by annexing the names of the patients. This I was especially authorised to do, in many cases, by the patients themselves, whilst those whose authority has not been particularly requested, cannot censure the publicity thus given to their names; inasmuch as this is done with a view to a scientific object. Nothing but circumstances altogether peculiar obliged me, in particular cases, to withhold the name.

In the fourth chapter, I give the necessary information respecting the trifling utility (and even this is always very doubtful) of the employment of ear-trumpets by those who hear with difficulty. Finally, in the fifth chapter, there are convincing proofs of the entire failure of all remedial attempts hitherto made for the restoration of the faculty of hearing in deaf-mutes, whence I am much disposed to prognosticate similar results from any remedial attempts that may in future be made for the same purpose. The deaf-dumb, whether they be completely deaf, or merely dull of hearing, are incurable.

DR. WILHELM KRAMER,

Rosstrasse, No. 29.

Berlin, December, 1835.

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