

**DISEASES OF THE LUNGS FROM
MECHANICAL CAUSES; AND
INQUIRIES INTO THE CONDITION
OF THE ARTISANS EXPOSED TO
THE INHALATION OF DUST**

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Diseases of the Lungs from Mechanical Causes; And Inquiries into the Condition of the Artisans Exposed to the Inhalation of Dust by G. Calvert Holland

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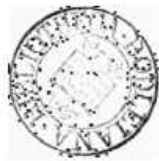
G. CALVERT HOLLAND, Esq., M.D.,

PHYSICIAN EXTRAORDINARY TO THE SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY; FORMERLY
PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTERIAN AND ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETIES, EDINBURGH;
AND BACHELOR OF LETTERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages are introduced to the public, in the hope that they will excite attention proportionate to the evils described, and which it is the anxious desire of the writer to meliorate. Small as the work is, it has been the labour of years. The inquiry was commenced in 1837, and, with few interruptions, has been steadily pursued until the present moment. He has been encouraged to persevere in the undertaking, from the strong conviction, and the admitted fact, that the evils are not necessarily associated with the occupation, but are the offspring of changes induced by the extension of manufactures. Had he had any doubts on the practicability of the correction of them, either from the expense that would be incurred, or from any other cause, he certainly would not have devoted either his time or money in the accomplishment of a task, that could serve no end, except to excite useless sympathy.

It is demonstrated by the clearest possible evidence, that where the system of ventilation proposed has been adopted, the dust is entirely removed, and the appalling diseases of the lungs, which would otherwise have been produced, are unknown. The grinders are much more numerous than any other class of artisans in this town. As far as the inquiries of the writer have enabled him to form an opinion, they are not less than 3000; and the individuals dependent upon them for support, at a moderate estimate, are 9000. It is, therefore, manifest, that the severe and long-protracted disease of the grinder, by which he is early incapacitated from labour, or compelled to pursue it, a miserable and painful object, and at length his premature death, are circumstances which affect the social condition of a large and important section of the population.

It will also be obvious, from the various facts brought under consideration, that the evils must in various ways be felt by every portion of the community. Vice, ignorance, and destitution, exert a widely pervading influence. The inability of the artisan to continue his occupation from disease, throws him, and, perhaps, a numerous family, upon the parish for support, not in a few solitary cases, but in hundreds of instances; and it is scarcely necessary to observe, that on his death, the same dependence, if not indeed in an aggravated form, becomes indispensable for years. When the parish is not burthened in this stage of suffering, the injury to society, from the inadequate struggles of the afflicted artisan to live, is scarcely in any degree mitigated. The children, without having received any education at all, are put to work, at seven, eight, and nine years old, from which circumstances, and the fruitful consequences which flow from them, in a later stage, additional claims upon the parish funds are created, or ignorance and immorality extend, maintaining low and depraved habits of feeling among the labouring classes.

The writer takes this opportunity of thanking the public press generally, for the manner in which it has spoken of his inquiries into the condition of the artisans of this town,¹ and especially for the warm expressions of sympathy towards the most neglected portion of them. He trusts, that on the present occasion, his labours in relation to this particular and extensive class of artisans, will meet with the same kind reception, and by the able exposition of the evils, facilitate the object which he has in view—the correction of them.

It is, perhaps, scarcely necessary to remark, as the fact is generally known, that this small work has appeared, within the present year, in a series of papers, in the *London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science*. This course was adopted, in order that the evils exposed might be widely known; and for this facility, which was courteously accorded to his wishes, the writer takes this opportunity of thanking the spirited and talented editor of the Journal.

¹ The Vital Statistics of Sheffield.

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