



CLINICAL
THERAPEUTICS.

LECTURES
IN
PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

DUJARDIN-BEAUME.



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GEO. S. DAVIS.

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CLINICAL THERAPEUTICS.

LECTURES IN PRACTICAL MEDICINE, DELIVERED IN THE HOSPITAL ST.
ANTOINE, PARIS, FRANCE.

BY

PROFESSOR DUJARDIN-BEAUMETZ,

PHYSICIAN TO THE COCHIN HOSPITAL, MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
AND OF THE COUNCIL OF HYGIENE AND SALUBRITY OF THE SEINE.

THE TREATMENT OF NERVOUS DISEASES; OF
GENERAL DISEASES; AND OF FEVERS.

TRANSLATED BY E. P. HURD, M. D.,

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DETROIT, MICH.
GEORGE S. DAVIS.
1885.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

This work, which my friend, Dr. Hurd, has so satisfactorily translated, and which Mr. George S. Davis (who has done much—in my estimation—to advance the cause of progressive therapeutics) now publishes, will, I hope, be found useful to American practitioners.

The success which has attended the publication of these lectures in France, where the work, before its completion, had gone through four editions, and in foreign countries, where it has been successively translated into Spanish, by Dr. Reboles y Campos, of Madrid; into Italian, by Dr. Cozzolino, of Naples; into Greek, by Dr. Kyriazides—a translation into Russian is also in progress—shows the great interest which physicians of all lands are to-day manifesting in therapeutic advance.

It has been my object to furnish a ready help to the busy practitioner, and especially, to young physicians commencing practice, by showing them how best to treat diseases, and by removing obstacles from their way.

To attain this end, I have drawn largely from the published labors of all countries, for science is cosmopolitan, having no boundary lines.

In order to judge of the value of the various medications in usage, one should always ask first, what are the clinical results? It is to this test that I have endeavored, impartially, to make appeal. My hospital opportunities have been great, and I have sought to obtain from them the utmost possible returns.

Therapeutics, which, as a branch of medicine, has been so much neglected, I may almost say despised, since the commencement of this century, is to-day claiming its rights and its pre-eminent position being first in the hierarchy of medical sciences, and all the other studies being subservient to it. On all sides we now see tokens of splendid promise. Yesterday the leading interest was in resorcin, kairine, antipyrine, and other new antithermic medicaments, which enable us to be masters of the temperature; to-day it is in cocaine, with its marvellous local anæsthetizing properties; to-morrow, or in the near future, it will be in the vegetal world, better known and applied to therapeutics, or in chemistry, by synthesis discovering new medicines, or in the protective benefits of attenuated virus creating media refractory to infectious diseases.

The United States has not been behind in beneficent medical work; we owe already to this country of enterprise and of progress, the greatest therapeutical discovery of our age, and of ages to come: surgical anæsthesia.

Therefore, it is with extreme satisfaction that I have accepted the proposition of Dr. Hurd, and I take this occasion to thank him for the assiduity, pains-taking, and accuracy with which he has translated these lectures, which I hope will receive a favorable reception from my American confrères, with whom the entire body of French physicians has such hearty sympathy—sympathy created by the bonds of affection which have so long united France to the great Republic of the United States.

PARIS, August, 1885.

DUJARDIN-BEAUMETZ.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

Doctor Dujardin-Beaumetz, the author of this work, was born at Barcellona, in Spain, on the twenty-eighth day of November, 1833. He is the son of a farmer who is now living on an estate near Vendome, in the department of Loir and Cher. His father's family, by name *Dujardin*, was originally from a town of the north of France, which bore the name *Beaumetz*; for a long time the surname of the family was written: Dujardin de Beaumetz; the prefix, *de*, was eventually dropped, and the cognomen was henceforth written as at present.

Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz's classical studies were performed at the College (Lycée) St. Louis, and the College Soutane, Paris. His first intention was to devote himself to agriculture, but he soon abandoned this purpose, and took up the study of medicine. In this he soon became remarkably proficient, and graduated at the Ecole de Medecine, in 1862. With a strong and growing passion for hospital work, he was successively, externe, then interne, under Velpeau, and *chef de clinique* under Behier. He has been three times Laureat of the Faculty, then Laureat of the Hospitals, and finally, Laureat of the Institute, obtaining the prize Montyon, for his Researches on the Alcohols.

For his gallant conduct during the siege of Paris, in caring for the wounded soldiers under the fire of the enemy, at the battle of Montretout, he was honored with the title of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He has been physician in chief to two large hospitals, the hôpital Saint Antoine, and the hôpital Cochin; he is at present connected with this latter hospital, in which, besides having the general medical supervision of that vast eleemosynary institution, he has charge of a fine laboratory for chemical and physiological experimentation. Dr. Beaumetz has also a large private practice, is member of numerous learned societies (Academy of Medicine, Société des Hôpitaux, Société de Therapeutique, etc.), which demand much of his time; he is also editor-in-chief (secretaire de la redaction) of the *Bulletin general de therapeutique*, one of the oldest and most influential of the French medical journals, an office which he has held since 1874.

Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz has been already a voluminous writer. Among his published works we cite the following:

1. *On Locomotor Ataxia*.—An inaugural thesis of 75 pages. It comprises reports of ten cases which came under the observation of the writer.
2. *Etude sur le Cholera*.—This is a study of the cholera epidemic of 1865 and 1866.
3. *Ocular Troubles in Diseases of the Spinal Cord*.—In this memoir are contained the greater number of facts which have been observed of eye troubles in the course of diseases of the spine, and an attempt is made to point out the ties which unite these visual disorders with the medullary alterations.
4. *On Acute Myelitis*.—This is the author's *these d'agregation*, and is a volume of 162 pages. It is a complete history of acute myelitis. This is an exhaustive treatise of the subject, and in France, has become classical.
5. *Researches on Gelsemium*, 1878.—In this thesis the author studies the physiological and therapeutical properties of gelsemium, showing, first of all, the toxic effects of this substance on animals, then its therapeutic effects in neuralgia, and especially in facial neuralgia. (Written in collaboration with Dr. Emery.)
6. *Researches on Nutritive Lavements*, 1879.—In this memoir the author combats the opinion that alimentary lavements have a real nutritive value. He shows that the rectum, being destitute of villousities, can absorb only liquids, and that the penetration of peptonized substances thereby is difficult, if not impossible. In the case of lavements of milk or

broth, only the water and the salts are absorbed, while the fatty and albuminoid matters can not enter the economy through this channel, and even in employing the method of Leube, the peptones cannot be utilized by the rectum. He has supported this view by personal clinical researches, which showed that in persons affected with stenosis of the œsophagus or pylorus, alimentary lavements failed utterly to increase the weight and temperature, or the quantity of urea excreted in twenty-four hours.

7. *On the Treatment of Aneurisms of the Aorta by Electro-puncture*, 1878.—In this treatise the writer sums up the cases of acute aneurism occurring in his hospital service, which he has treated by electro-puncture, and shows that this method, applied to the treatment of aneurisms, is a simple and relatively safe operation, and one of the most efficacious and rational means of cure.

8. *Researches on Pelletierine*, 1878.—This is a communication published in the *Bulletins et Memoires de la Société de thérapeutique*, in which the results of the author's trials in the hôpital St. Antoine, with this new tœnicide, were recorded. He shows it to be one of the best, if not the best remedy for tape-worm in possession of the medical profession.

9. *Experimental Researches on the Toxic Power of the Alcohols*, Paris, 1879.—This work, which is a stout octavo volume of over 300 pages, fills a lacuna previously existing in our knowledge respecting the physiological and toxic effects of the divers alcohols. Over three hundred experiments were made to ascertain the relative toxicity of ethyl, methyl, amyl, and other spirits which, more or less, impregnate the various intoxicants in common use, being naturally found there, or artificially added, and which are the cause of certain well-known excitant effects on the animal or human organism.

The animals on which these experiments were performed were dogs and swine. Dujardin-Beaumetz was assisted in these experiments by Dr. Audigé. They employed chiefly the hypodermic method, and called minimum toxic dose that quantity of pure alcohol which by kilogramme of the weight of the body of the animal, is necessary to cause death in the space of twenty-four to thirty-six hours, with gradual and permanent fall of the temperature. By pure alcohol is understood alcohol of 100° in the scale of Guy Lussac.

The following conclusions result from these researches:

The least toxic of the alcohols is the ethyl alcohol from vinous fermentation. The most toxic is the amyl alcohol (potato spirit, fusel oil).

As for the toxic phenomena determined by the alcohols, they may be divided into three periods: A period of ebriety, or excitation, a period of resolution, and a period of collapse. These periods undergo modifications depending on (1) the nature of the alcohol employed; (2) the dose administered; (3) the resistance of the subject.

With the alcohols obtained by fermentation, the three periods of acute intoxication succeed each other in a regular order, but in proportion as you depart from the ethyl series, their character is more accentuated, their evolution more rapid, and you see certain convulsive phenomena appear.

With methyl alcohol (wood spirits) the period of excitation is more intense, resolution, collapsus, and the toxic symptoms which accompany them arrive more rapidly at their maximum, but, in case the dose is not sufficient to kill, the phenomena disappear more promptly.

With œnanthylic and caprylic alcohols the periods of intoxication do not present the same regularity, and convulsions occur. Glycerine causes an increase, rather than a fall of temperature.

In the case of all animals which have died from acute poisoning by alcohol the necropsy discloses lesions of the respiratory and circulatory apparatus, of the nervous system and of the kidneys. As for the digestive apparatus, the lesions on the part of the gastric mucous membrane are inconspicuous when the alcohol is introduced by the hypodermic method, but when the poison is administered by mouth, the mucous membrane of the stomach is invariably found softened, and the more concentrated the alcohol, the greater the softening. The intestine undergoes the same alteration; it is found softened, and of a reddish black color; punctiform hæmorrhages are produced, even when the alcohol is injected under the skin (elimination of alcohol by the intestinal glands).

The liver is more profoundly altered than any other gland. It is congested, softened and friable. The spleen is engorged with blood and softened. As for the respiratory and circulatory lesions, they are characterized by a profound alteration of the blood, which becomes dark, and forms in the heart clots in considerable quantity. The lungs are congested and contain apoplectic foci. The kidneys are injected and present hæmorrhagic extravasations, especially when fusel oil (potato spirit) is used.

Acute alcoholic poisoning in the human subject, is attended with similar symptoms, and presents similar post mortem lesions.

10. *Chronic Alcohol Poisoning*.—Since the publication of the treatise above referred to, a little brochure has appeared, giving the results of a series of experiments by Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz and his colleague, on chronic alcohol poisoning.* The subjects of these experiments were hogs, twenty of which were, during the space of two years, daily dosed with small quantities of the various alcohols in order to determine the symptomatological and pathological results.

It was in 1879 that Dujardin-Beaumetz and Audigé commenced in the abattoirs of Grenelle their researches on slow intoxication by the alcohols. They used, as before stated, hogs as the subjects of their experiments, giving these animals daily quantities of the different commercial alcohols, which varied from one gramme to three grammes by kilogramme of weight. When the quantity was exceeded of five grammes to the kilogramme, the animal emaciated rapidly, refused to eat, and soon died.

Among the post mortem changes, the lesions of chronic gastritis were noted; also fatty changes in the kidneys. In the case of two of these animals, the necropsy revealed atheromatous degeneration of the aorta. In no instance was cirrhosis of the liver observed, or any of the chronic interstitial diseases. Beaumetz explains the absence of hepatic cirrhosis by the fact that the fibrous web-work of the hog's liver is thicker and more resisting than that of man, and that in consequence it is more difficult to choke out the glandular elements.

The most marked manifestation of chronic intoxication in these animals was a profound prolonged somnolence without any period of excitation. There was also a trembling and a weakness in the limbs. It is worthy of special note that the symptoms of intoxication were much less pronounced when ethyl alcohol was used, and that swine will support for a long time, apparently with impunity, moderate quantities, administered regularly every day, of pure spirits (wine, beer, rum, whiskey, etc.), containing only ethyl alcohol.

In experiments undertaken to prove the combustion or noncombustion of alcohol in the economy, these physiologists were positive in having found aldehyde in the viscera of men and animals poisoned by ethyl alcohol, and had even obtained in one of their experimentations, the reduction on a mirror of silver nitrate which is one of the best tests of ethyl-aldehyde, but a more attentive examination of the facts has shown them that the aldehyde which they found may have come from its presence in the normal state in a great number of alcoholic liquors. Therefore, nothing definite has been determined by these experiments as to the formation of aldehyde out of alcohol in the economy.

The conclusions which Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz deduces from this interesting experimentation (see the entire treatise as reproduced by me in the *Therapeutic Gazette* for July and August, 1884), are as follows:

"In fine, to complete the detail of experiments which have cost us so much in money, and about three years of careful observation, we observe:

1. That the alcohols, administered in a slow and continuous manner, determine in the hog, at the end of a certain time, anatomical lesions, which consist in congestions and inflammations of the digestive tube, and of the liver, without at the same time attaining to that degree of interstitial hepatitis which is noted in hard drinkers in human kind; in congestion of the pulmonary parenchyma, which may end in apoplectic extravasations; in

* *Experimental Researches on Chronic Alcoholism*, Paris, 1884. pp. 60.

atheromatous degeneration of the large vessels, and especially the aorta, and finally, in sanguineous effusions into the substance of the muscles, and in the cellular tissue.

2. That these lesions, inappreciable at the end of thirty months in cases where ethyl alcohol was given, and alcohols having other origin than vinous fermentation, but which had been thoroughly rectified, are very conspicuous in subjects to which have been administered crude spirits, whether from beets, grain, or potatoes.

3. That preparations of absinthe are especially baneful in their effects on the nervous system:

These results, considering the time and pains we spent, may seem inconsiderable. We think, nevertheless, that they deserve to go on record, for they strikingly confirm our first experiments, and enable us to affirm that the disorders observed in man as the sequel of alcoholism, are really due to the slow and progressive absorption of the poison to which he surrenders himself every day. We hope, therefore, that these new experiments will find a welcome with all who are interested in this social question of the times."

11. *Dictionnaire de Therapeutique*.—In 1882 Dr. Beaumetz planned a very extensive work, which is now about half completed. I refer to his Therapeutical Dictionary, which is being published in four large volumes, each volume comprising about a thousand pages. Here everything which is of recognized utility in the treatment of disease—medicines, hydrotherapy, electricity, ærotherapy, balneation, etc., comes up for exhaustive consideration. As an indication of the thoroughness of this work, I may mention that the one article *Electricity* covers 130 quarto pages, the article on *Waters (eaux)* 95 pages, that of *Bacteria* 35, that of *Ergot* 25 pages, etc. Dr. Beaumetz is assisted in this work by Drs. Debierre, Egasse, Hetel, Jaillet, Macquarie, and Bardet.

12. *Researches on phosphorus medication, 1868*.—In these researches the author studies the phosphorus preparations, shows the inconveniences of the officinal preparations in common use, and advises the solution of phosphorus in chloroform or ether; one of the best forms of administration is the phosphorated oil of Mehu's formula, which may be advantageously given in capsules, each capsule containing one milligramme of phosphorus. In the second part of this work he shows the advantages which may be derived from the internal administration of phosphorus in the medullary sclerosis.

13. *Researches on carbazotate of ammonia, 1872*.—The above is a valuable contribution to the study of a new antiperiodic medicament.

14. *Researches on subcutaneous injections, 1872*.

15. *Researches on the action of iodine solutions on caoutchouc tubes, 1872*.

16. *On the treatment of hydated cysts, 1872*.

17. *Studies on the physiological and therapeutical action of the ammonia compounds, 1873*.

18. *On the external applications of chloral and metachloral, 1873*.

19. *On intravenous injections of water in the treatment of cholera, 1873*.

20. *On the use of oatmeal in the alimentation of infancy, 1873*.

21. *On the treatment of hepatic colic, 1873*.

22. *A study of boldo, 1874*.

23. *Researches on the action of aiantus glandulosa, 1874*.

24. *A study of the therapeutical actions of apomorphia, 1874*.

25. *A study of the action of the phosphates of lime, 1875*.

26. *On the indications of the treatment of cerebral rheumatism by cold baths, 1875*.

27. *On expectancy as a method of treatment in acute rheumatism, 1875*.

28. *A study of the ferruginous medication, 1876*.

29. *A study of the physiological and therapeutical action of the salts of cicutine, 1876*.

The foregoing sixteen treatises, which are merely mentioned by title, are communications from the pen of Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz which have appeared among the publications of the various hospital, therapeutical and other learned societies prior to 1877. They are all based on original research, contain new facts, and constitute a valuable addition to medical literature.

30. *On the preparations and uses of meat powder,* 1882*.

31. *On lavage and gavage of the stomach,† 1883*.

In these articles the various methods now in use for the treatment of chronic disorders of the nutrition are described. Especial emphasis is laid on the utility of washing out the stomach and forced feeding in certain morbid states of the stomach. The author gives a minute account, illustrated by figures, of the operative procedure, with the flexible syphon, employed by him, and the improvements which he has introduced into the new methods of "lavage" and "gavage."

Those who are familiar with the medical literature of the last six or seven years know that great progress has been realized in this department of therapeutics. No one perhaps, has contributed more toward this advance than Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz.

32. *Leçons de Clinique Therapeutique*, Paris, 1879-85.—This work, of which the present translation is the third and final volume, will probably for many years to come be considered as Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz's most important work.

The first volume comprises the therapeutics of diseases of the heart and digestive tube; the second, the treatment of diseases of the liver, kidneys and lungs.

The first and second volumes have now gone through four editions, and the favor with which the work in its entirety has been received in France is something almost unprecedented.

Dr. Lucien Deniau, a former pupil of the professor, now a practising physician in Paris, thus writes me with regard to these lectures on Clinical Therapeutics.

"I learn with pleasure your intention to publish a translation of Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz's work on Therapeutics. Ardent disciple of the celebrated professor, I had the good fortune to take part almost in the inception of this great undertaking, than which I have known none ever to be received with greater approbation by the Parisian medical public, not generally over prodigal with its favors. While a student, I was constantly in attendance on those public teachings, many of which you are about to incorporate in the book which Mr. Davis will have the honor to publish. The great amphitheatre of the St. Antoine hôpital was ever crowded with an appreciative audience of under-graduates and practitioners of medicine, who came here to learn from the lips of a master what arms they might most successfully wield in the great warfare against disease and death. The favor with which students and physicians welcomed these first lessons on clinical therapeutics has gone on increasing, and I may truly say to-day that in the amphitheatre of the Hôpital Cochin, which the administration has built expressly for the clinical teaching of the professor, every 'conference' constitutes a veritable scientific festival."

The lectures as originally delivered were oral (as I have been informed by the professor); they were afterwards written out, and the notes appended. The text is, in fact, largely the fruit of the notes, which have cost the writer infinite labor. The works consulted in their preparation comprehend, as may be seen from the bibliographical indications, a wide range of medical literature. Possessed of a prodigious memory, Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz has a happy faculty of gleaning from extensive fields the choicest wheat, and the substance of entire volumes is often comprised in a single lecture. The work is eminently practical and is designed to assist the physician in his daily duties; diseases are described as he is likely to meet them; and from the data furnished by etiology and pathology, therapeutical indications are derived. Clinical Therapeutics is really a treatise on practice in which everything is subordinated to therapeutics. Much that in ordinary text-books on materia medica and practice is rather embarrassing to the practitioner than helpful is here omitted, while the important data, set forth in strong light and grouped in a few masterly generalizations, indicate to him where he can be truly useful, where his intervention is demanded, as well as the limits of that intervention. It has been objected that Dr. Dujardin-Beaumetz, is too zealous for new remedies and new methods of treatment, but in reality he is eminently conservative as well as progressive.

*Bull. Gen. de therapeutique, 1882.

†Ibid. 1884.

While his motto is to "prove all things," he is equally characterized by a disposition to "hold fast to that which is good." As an illustration, I may only refer to his attitude toward certain new remedies, such as convallaria, antipyrine, glonoine, salicylic acid and salicylate of soda, etc. He was among the first thoroughly to test these medicaments in his hospital service where he has ever ample opportunities, and the judgment which he pronounced is the judgment which is sanctioned by the consensus of medical experience the world over.

It may be said (and it has, in fact, often been said) that we have already too many medicaments, and that it would be well to learn more about, and make a better use of those really good medicines which our fathers used, and whose action in combating morbid phenomena is incontestable. This, to a certain extent is true; there is one extreme which should be avoided—the forsaking of the old paths where there is more or less of certainty for new paths which have hardly yet been traversed, and which may lead into pitfalls. There is also another extreme which is equally reprehensible: overweening confidence in the traditions and methods of the past, and satisfaction with things as they are; it is a spirit which is inimical to all progress. Better by far for the physician to have some high ideal before him, an ideal which constantly demands more light on diseases, and improvements in methods and medicinal agents; there is little in the present state of medicine which should inspire satisfaction, and everything to stimulate to advancement. That progress has been made, especially during the last decade, no well informed man can deny; few have contributed more toward these useful gains in the department of healing than the author of this work; that we are at the dawn of a more glorious era of scientific achievement in which the uncertainties of therapeutics shall no longer be the reproach of our noble profession, we may fervently hope.

In the translation of this work I have had the constant co-operation and sympathy of the Paris author, for whose friendly services I shall ever be deeply grateful.

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., June 6th, 1885.

TRANSLATOR.

CONTENTS.

CLINICAL THERAPEUTICS I

What is Meant by the Term Clinical Therapeutics—Clinical Medicine and Clinical Therapeutics—Utility of Therapeutics—Scepticism and Enthusiasm in Therapeutics—Illusions in Therapeutics—Is Medicine an Art, or a Science?—Empirical and Experimental Therapeutics—Polypharmacy in Therapeutics—The Treatment of Symptoms—Constancy in Therapeutics—Necessity of Cool Judgment in Therapeutics—Accumulation of Doses—The Art of Prescribing—The Part of Hygiene in Therapeutics—The Part of Etiology in Therapeutics.

PART FIRST.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM FROM A THERAPEUTIC STAND-POINT 9

Difficulty of the Study of the Therapeutics of Diseases of the Nervous System—Moral Therapeutics—Structure of the Nervous System—The Nerve Cell—The Nerve Tube—Chemical Composition of the Nervous System—Phosphorus in the Nervous System—Action of Medicines on the Nervous System—Anæsthetics—The Direct Action of Anæsthetics on the Nervous Elements—The Action of Alcohol—Effect of Two Medicinal Substances on the Nervous Elements—Resistance to the Action of Certain Medicaments on the Vaso-motors—Vaso-constrictor and Vaso-dilator Medicines—Action of Ergot—Action of Morphia—Spasmodic and Anti-spasmodic Medicaments—Rôle of the Nervous System on the Secretions—Secretory Medicaments—Antagonism of Jaborandi and Atropine.

HYDROTHERAPEUTICS 20

History of Hydrotherapy—Priessnitz—Physiological Action of Cold—Reaction—Action of Hydrotherapy—Action on the Nervous System—Action on the Circulation—Action on Nutrition—Mode of Application of Cold Water—Douches—Pressure of the Water—Temperature of the Water—Alternating Douches—Duration of the Douche—Sudation before the Douche—Immersion—Affusions—Applications of Ice—Pulverizations of Ether.

MEDICAL ELECTRICITY 28

History—New Theory of Electricity—Intensity of the Current—Static and Dynamic Electrical Apparatuses—Physical Phenomena of the Electric Current—Chemical Phenomena of the Electric Current—Physiological Action of Electricity—Action on the Muscular System—Electro-Capillary Phenomena—Action on the Nervous System—Action on the Circulation—Action on Nutrition—Technics.

TREATMENT OF NEURALGIA 50

Definition—Pathogeny and Causes of Neuralgia—Influence of the Nervous System—Influence of the Circulation—Influence of Diseases of the Blood—Treatment of the Neuralgias—Symptom Treatment—Nervous Medicaments—Morphia—Atropine—Chloral—Chloroform—Injections of Chloroform—Aconite and Aconitine—Gelsemium and Gelsemine—Electricity—Hydrotherapy—Surgical Treatment—Neurotomy—Neurectomy—Nerve Stretching—Revulsive Medication—Cutaneous frictions—Vesicatories—Cauterization—Injections for Local Effect—Acupuncture—*Reveilleur de la Vie*—Aquapuncture—Galvanopuncture—Empirical Medication—Phosphorus—Guarana—Sulphate of Copper—Pathogenic Medication—Essential Neuralgias—Bromide of Potassium—Neurites—Revulsion—Congestive Neuralgias—Aconite—Neuralgias by Anæmia—Morphia—Dyscrasic Neuralgias—Chlorosis—Arsenic—Intermittent Neuralgia—Quinine—Syphilitic Neuralgia—Arthritic, Dartrous Neuralgia—Treatment of Certain Varieties of Neuralgia—Neuralgia of the Foot—Sciatica—Uterine and Vesical Neuralgia—Ileo-Lumbar Neuralgia—Intercostal Neuralgia—Trifacial Neuralgia—Odontalgia—Tic Douleureux—Migraine.

TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA 80

Difficulty of the Subject—Vague Delimitation of Hysteria—Comprehends a Great Number of the Diseases of the Nervous System—Impossibility of Assuring a Therapeutic Result in Certain Cases of Hysteria—General Treatment of Hysteria—Hygienic Treatment—Education, Its Rôle as a Prophylactic—Influence of the Uterus in Hysteria—Influence of Continence—Of Marriage—Influence of the Husband—Kind of Life—Influence of Disappointments—Excitement—Alimentation—Medical Treatment—Anti-spasmodics—Valerian—Castor Assafetida—Bromides—Baths—Hydrotherapy—Means of Application—Mineral Waters—Electricity—Influence of Static Electricity—Galvanism, Metalloscopy and Metallotherapy—History—Burquism—Æsthesiogenous Substances—Results of Metallotherapy—Its Modes of Application—External and Internal Metallotherapy—Treatment of the Attack—Cold Water—Compression of the Ovary—Mechanical Compression—Galvanism—Medicinal Inhalations—Nitrite of Amyl—Treatment of Certain Symptoms—Paralysis—Contractions—Anæsthesia—Amaurosis—Gastric Hysteria—Anorexia—Vomiting—Anuria—Electricity—Ether Spray—"Gavage"—Conclusions.

TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY 107

Treatment of Epilepsy—Curability and Incurability—General Treatment—Pathogeny and Etiology—Experimental Epilepsy—Disease of the Spinal Cord, the Nerves, and the Brain—Causes—Therapeutics of Symptomatic Epilepsy—Antisyphilitic Treatment—Revulsion—Essential Epilepsy—Physiological Pathology—Treatment of Essential Epilepsy—Empirical Medication—Galium, Valerian, Hyoscyamus, Belladonna, Indian Hemp, Nitrate of Silver, Oxide of Zinc, Ammonio-sulphate of Copper, Bromide of Potassium—History—Physiological Action of the Bromide of Potassium—Employment of Bromide of Potassium in Epilepsy—Result of the Treatment—Rules of Administration—The Alkaline Bromides—Bromides of the Metals—Doses—Mode of Administration—Duration of Treatment—Curare, Cocculus Indicus and Picrotoxine—Treatment of the Attack—Hygienic Treatment.

TREATMENT OF CHOREA 128

Different Kinds of Chorea—Curability of Chorea—Pathogeny of Chorea—Divers Medications Proposed—Muscular Medicaments—Strychnine—Aniline—Eserine—Curare—Medullary Medicaments—Picrotoxine—Hyoscyamine—The Bromides—Electricity—Galvanic Baths—Ether Spray—Anæsthetic Medicaments—Morphine—Chloral—Chloroform—Medicaments that Act on the General Condition—Tartar Emetic—Bloodletting—Hydrotherapy—Sulphur Baths—Gymnastics.

TREATMENT OF MENINGITIS 141

Varieties of Meningitis—Tuberculous Meningitis—Its Curability—March of Tuberculous Meningitis—Symptoms—Prophylactic Treatment—Influence of Heredity—Hygienic Treatment—The General Treatment—Revulsion—Cold Applications—Bloodletting—Internal Treatment—Calomel—Quinine—Calmatives—Butternut Leaves—Iodide of Potassium—Difficulties of Diagnosis—Acute Meningitis—Chronic Meningitis.

TREATMENT OF APOPLEXY. 154

Apoplexy—Definition—Cause—Apoplexy by Rupture—Apoplexy by Anæmia—Apoplexy by Congestion—Treatment of Apoplexy by Hæmorrhage—Treatment Before the Attack—Treatment of the Attack—Bloodletting—Its Rôle—Inefficacy of Bloodletting—Treatment After the Attack—Pharmaceutical Means—Arnica—Strychnine—Electricity—Treatment of Apoplexy by Anæmia—Before, During, After the Attack—Treatment of Apoplexy by Congestion—The Apoplectic Temperament—Pathogeny of Cerebral Hyperæmia—Hygienic Treatment—Bad Influence of the Alcohols—Obesity and Apoplexy—Utility of a Normal Functional Condition of the Digestive Tube—Constipation—Purgatives—Aloes—Hæmorrhoids in Apoplectic Patients—Diagnosis—Conclusions.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC MYELITES. 166

On Diseases of the Spinal Cord—Progress of Pathological Anatomy—The Different Inflammatory Processes—Myelites, Acute or Parenchymatous—Myelites, Sclerous and Interstitial—Their Varieties—General Treatment—Bloodletting, Local and General—Revulsion—Utility of Revulsion—Experimental Researches on Revulsion—Reflex Paraplegias from Cold—Hydro-therapy—Cold Douches and Warm Douches—Electricity—Ergot—Empirical Medication—Nitrate of Silver—Phosphorus—How to Give Phosphorus—Treatment of the Different Varieties of Myelitis—Treatment of the Hyperæmia—Influence of Decubitus—Treatment of Meningo-myelites—Treatment of the Consecutive Paraplegia—Electricity—Hydro-therapy—Thermal Treatment—Strychnine—Indications and Contra-indications—Treatment of Myelites by Compression—Anti-syphilitic Treatment—Treatment of Sclerosis of the Posterior Columns—Its Progressive March—Its Incurability—Bad Effects of Hydro-therapy—Thermal Treatment—Treatment of the *Douleurs Fulgurantes*—Injections of Morphia—Effect of Temperature—Nerve-stretching—Electricity—Treatment of the Atrophic Paralysis of Infancy—Electricity.