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PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
TYPHUS FEVER,
OF THE
COMMON CONTINUED FEVER,
AND OF
INFLAMMATORY DISEASES
&c. &c.

FUNDO BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA
DEL ESTADO DE GUATEMALA

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BY
JOHN ARMSTRONG, M. D.
PHYSICIAN TO THE FEVER INSTITUTION OF LONDON.

Human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the great
test of truth. DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

FROM THE LAST LONDON EDITION.

With Notes by an American Physician.

NEW-YORK:
PUBLISHED BY EVERT DUYCKINCK, GEORGE LONG, COLLINS & CO.,
AND COLLINS & HANNAY.
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RECEIVED
JULY 31 1816

Southern District of New-York, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 14th day of October, A. D. 1824, in the 49th year of the Independence of the United States of America, W. E. Dean, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book the right whereof he claims as proprietor in the words following, to wit:

"Practical Illustrations of Typhus Fever, of the Common Continued Fever, and of Inflammatory Diseases, &c. &c. By John Armstrong, M.D. Physician to the Fever Institution of London. Human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the great test of truth.—Dr. Samuel Johnson. From the last London Edition. With notes, by an American Physician."

In conformity to the Act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also, to an Act, entitled "An Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein-mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

JAMES DILL, Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.



JOHN RALPH FENWICK, M. D.

OF DURHAM.

MY DEAR SIR,

KNOWING no individual who unites in his character more talent and benevolence than yourself, I inscribe this volume to you, as a token of my sincere respect and esteem.

Believe me to remain, dear Sir,

Your much obliged and faithful friend,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

July 31st, 1816.

PREFACE.

THE mind which has been exclusively directed to the investigation of a favourite science, is unwilling to persuade itself that its powers, however feeble, have been concentrated in vain ; since the faintest rays, when collected into a focus, can produce some degree of illumination. It was an impression of this kind which first led me to think of publishing the results of my experience ; and the present volume is a part of the series of commentaries on acute diseases, promised at the publication of some facts concerning the puerperal fever. During an extended practice of several years, my views, with respect to the treatment of fevers in general have undergone gradual and at length great changes ; and it is hoped, that an impartial exhibition of the causes, nature, and object of those changes may not be wholly useless. No disease is here brought forward, with the exception of the plague, but what has repeatedly fallen under my observation ; and typhus has been made the foundation for most of the principles attempted to be established. By the term typhus many have meant that combination of malignant symptoms which may take place in the last stage of any acute disease, and hence they have said that to deplete is death in ty-

phus; but though it doubtless would be so under the ultimate symptoms supposed by them to constitute typhus, yet this is an abuse of the term, which in the subsequent pages denotes a specific disease that, like the epic poem of ancient critics, has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Some of the advised methods of cure differ from those taught by certain medical professors and lecturers; but whatever regard I entertain towards men justly eminent for their rank and acquirements, I am morally bound to maintain what experience has shown me to be efficacious, how much soever it may oppose prevailing opinions. Now and then I have felt it a duty pointedly to dissent from the doctrine of noted authors, because error is always most dangerous when sanctioned by a celebrated name; yet fully sensible of their general superiority, it has been my aim to mingle respect with animadversion. So far as recollection or extracts could assist, acknowledgments have been made for the thoughts really suggested by the perusal of other works; and therefore if any omissions be discovered, they ought to be imputed to forgetfulness alone. At the same time, it must be remembered, that medical inquirers may make similar observations respecting diseases, without being at all indebted to each other, as distant and unacquainted astronomers may, by their telescopes, discover similar phenomena.

Febrile affections have acquired an additional claim to notice, from their extensive prevalence in many districts of the United Kingdom, since the first publication of this work; and having been placed in situations favourable for observation, I have endeavoured, in this revised Edition, to give a much more extended view of the subject. At the suggestion of an able friend, the different topics, before blended in the pathology and treatment of typhus, have been separated, and now form a series of distinct illustrations of the principles

advanced. Among many others, one advantage of this new arrangement is, that it has enabled me to express my thoughts with greater precision as to those very particulars upon which the chief peculiarities of my doctrine are founded; for in thus again soliciting the attention of professional readers, I must inform them, that the practice recommended is by no means so uniform as some have represented, but varied by many minute circumstances, to point out which was the main reason of my attempting the illustration of acute diseases.

J. A.

23, Southampton-row, Russell-square,
July, 1819.