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Fordyce G (1803). A fifth dissertation on fever. London: J Johnson.

Title pages

A
FIFTH DISSERTATION

ON
F E V E R,

CONTAINING THE
HISTORY OF, AND REMEDIES

TO BE EMPLOYED IN,
IRREGULAR CONTINUED FEVERS;
TOGETHER WITH A GENERAL CONCLUSION TO THE FOUR
PRECEDING AND PRESENT DISSERTATIONS.

Medicina igitur adhuc taliter comparata est, ut fuerit magis ostenta, quam elaborata; etiam magis elaborata quam amplificata.

BACON AUG. Sc. Lib. ii. Cap. i.

Solent autem homines naturam tanquam ex præalta turri et e longo despicere, et circa generalia nimium occupari; quando si descendere placuerit et ad particularia accedere, resque ipsas attentius et diligentius inspicere, magis vera et utilis fieret comprehensio.—*IBID.*

BY THE LATE

GEORGE FORDYCE, M. D. F. R. S.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
SENIOR PHYSICIAN TO ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL,
AND READER ON THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC IN LONDON.

—○○○○○—
EDITED

BY WILLIAM CHARLES WELLS, M. D. F. R. S.
AND PHYSICIAN TO ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

—○○○○○—
L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD,
BY J. G. BARNARD, GEORGE'S COURT, CLERKENWELL.

—○○○○○—
1803.

Thus then, there are three ways in which a fever may be terminated, and the patient restored to health, without any assistance from medicine; nay, even if a practitioner had used every means that was likely to destroy the patient, or prevent the fever from going off by the powers inherent in the body. A practitioner, therefore, is not to believe that the remedies he has employed cure the patient, if he gets well, unless he understands how the disease would have proceeded if no medicine had been employed.

The author has likewise taken notice of an opinion, which has been adopted by many practitioners; to wit, that no effort should be made to check the ordinary course of the disease, but that it ought to be suffered to go through its progress, which they call leaving it entirely to nature.

Supposing that no medicine of any kind had been found out that would carry off a fever, it would not, certainly, be indifferent what attention was paid to the patient. It is also clear, that when those medicines, which have been found to carry off fever in a number of cases, have failed, it would likewise be not indifferent in what manner a patient was treated. The author, therefore, has shown in the third dissertation, that in all fevers it is necessary to clear the primæ viæ of any noxious matter that may be contained in them; that care is to be taken that the patient may have such nourishment as shall not disorder either the primæ viæ themselves, or any part of the system; that the mind should be kept perfectly at rest; that the patient should be kept in bed, in a moderate degree of heat, and in an air free from any noxious matter;