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Fordyce G (1802). A second dissertation on fever. London: J Johnson.

Title pages

SECOND DISSERTATION
ON
F E V E R ;
CONTAINING THE
HISTORY AND METHOD OF TREATMENT
OF A
REGULAR TERTIAN INTERMITTENT.

*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 de-
spicere, et circa generalia nimium occupari; quando si descendere pla-
cuerit et ad particularia accedere, resque ipsas attentius et diligentius
inspicere, magis vera et utilis fieret comprehensio.—IBID.*

By 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.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD;

1802.

It becomes therefore matter of experiment to determine whether a fever may be stopped in its course without prejudice to the general system.

If regard were had to the medicines only which were employed by the Greeks and Romans, and the earlier modern practitioners, it must be determined that it was seldom proper to try to stop the natural progress. But by the remedies of modern times, it is evident that tertians and other fevers may be put an end to with safety to the patient. We know however that there is not any remedy which will certainly carry off the disease, but that a regular tertian will sometimes go through its natural course in spite of every attempt to terminate it.

It is also a question to be determined, whether by stopping a tertian in its course some other disease may not be produced, which will either be more distressing in itself, or which may terminate in the death of the patient?

Those who are uninformed in medicine, expect that diseases are to be cured by violent remedies and suddenly. The attention of by-standers is often drawn to practitioners who employ strong acrid medicines. This has frequently induced those practitioners who are least acquainted with the real history of diseases, to use the most violent medicines in their apparent effects, supposing that they would also be the most efficacious in curing the disease; while practitioners really well informed find it often much more proper, to leave diseases to go through their natural course, while they are careful not to let slip an opportunity of employing a remedy that is efficacious in carrying them off.

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