

Home

Contents

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Records

Title Page(s) Key Passage(s) Context

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Millar J (1770). Observations on the prevailing diseases in Great Britain. London: Cadell.

Title pages

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
PREVAILING DISEASES
IN
GREAT BRITAIN:
TOGETHER WITH
A REVIEW
OF
THE HISTORY OF THOSE OF FORMER PERIODS,
AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

By JOHN MILLAR, M.D.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, SUCCESSOR TO MR. MILLAR,
AND T. NOTEMAN, IN THE STRAND.
M.DCC.LXX.

Key passages

Particular cafes are fo various, irregular, and unconnected, that it is impoffible to reduce them to any ftandard; the knowledge and management of thefe muft ever depend on the fagacity and prompt difcernment of the phyfician; but there are difeafes, which, becaufe of their univerfal prevalence, have juftly been denominated popular or epidemick. The term has, indeed, been chiefly applied to diforders which fpring from a general but unufual caufe; and thefe of one conftitution have been fupposed entirely different in their nature, caufe, and cure, from thofe of another.

Though it doth not appear on what foundation this opinion refts, yet it hath been univerfally adopted. The queftion is important. If fuch a diverfity doth really obtain, it is impoffible that the healing art fhould ever arrive at any great degree of certainty, fince the experience of what may have been ufeful at one period cannot inftroct the phyfician how to act at another. But if, upon comparing the popular difeafes of different ages, and in various climates, a ftrong refemblance fhould be obferved, many ufelefs diftinctions may be abolifhed, and the attention being directed to the characteriftic figns in which they agree, more certain and extenfive practical rules may be eftablifhed.