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MacLean C (1818). Results of an Investigation, respecting Epidemic and Pestilential Diseases. Vol. 2. London: Underwood.

Title pages

RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION,
RESPECTING
EPIDEMIC AND PESTILENTIAL
DISEASES;
INCLUDING
RESEARCHES IN THE LEVANT,
CONCERNING
The Plague.

BY
CHARLES MACLEAN, M.D.

LECTURER ON THE DISEASES OF HOT CLIMATES TO THE
HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

London:
PRINTED FOR THOMAS AND GEORGE UNDERWOOD,
32, FLEET-STREET;
By R. & R. Gilbert, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

1818.



Key passages

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ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE

In the year 1796, in the worst ward, in the Calcutta general hospital, in all India and probably in the whole world, called the Mariner's Ward, my researches concerning the action of

... my treatment, concerning the action of mercury upon the living body, alone, and in combination, or alternated with opium, and other exciting powers, were brought to still greater maturity. In other wards of that hospital, a similar treatment was, at the same time, pursued, by my friends, Dr. William Yates, of the Madras, and Dr. James Robertson, of the Bengal establishment; and with similar beneficial results.

The patients in the Mariner's Ward, consisted of worn-out soldiers, from the interior of the country, who had resided many years in India; of sailors from long voyages in the coasting trade; and of townsmen, who had previously, without benefit, run the gauntlet of almost all the resident practitioners of the presidency. They were generally in the last stages of hepatitis, dysentery, fever, peripneumony, or dropsy; and many of them with complications of several disorders. Whilst those in the other wards consisted exclusively of young men, from the European corps, in garrison, in the neighbourhood, seldom labouring under diseases severer in degree, than gonorrhœa, or slight intermittent. Soldiers are invariably sent to hospitals, in the incipient stages of sickness, and before their diseases can have become formidable. But the patients destined for the ward under my care, were all in a dangerous state, or incurable, at their entrance. It seemed to be a sort of condemned ward. Yet, under such dissimilar circumstances, were attempts made, by a comparison of relative mortality, to deduce inferences, and to propagate reports, unfavourable to my method of treatment! The only refutation, which I could then offer, was to propose that my opponents should take patient for patient, under similar circumstances, of constitutions

...
tion and disease ; confident of an easy victory, if they would abstain from applying the very means, which they were so strenuous to condemn. This proposition could only be evaded, by pretending a reluctance to try experiments with the lives of men ; as if it were not manifest, that *my* experiments, *which were always first tried upon myself*, were capable of being conducted with perfect safety ; or, as if the practice of medicine, in its conjectural state, were any thing else, than *a continued series of experiments, upon the lives of our fellow-creatures.*

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