

C. X. 25.
La Libris ^{St. Andrew} & Bibliotheca

TREATISE

La Libris ^{College Regi} OF THE ^{Medic. Wimborg.}

SCURVY.

IN THREE PARTS.

Illegit CONTAINING *Regi*

An inquiry into the Nature, Causes,
and Cure, of that Disease.

Medicor. Together with *Edenburgh*

A Critical and Chronological View of what
has been published on the subject.

By JAMES LIND, M. D.

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in *Edenburgh*.

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For A. KINCAID & A. DONALDSON,

MDCCCLIII

From the Author

P. 9. 40.

*What gave occasion to my attempting this work,
is briefly as follows.*

*After the publication of the Right Honourable
Lord Anson's voyage, by the Reverend Mr Wal-
ter, the lively and elegant picture there exhibited
of*

of the distress occasioned by this disease, which afflicted the crews of that noble, brave, and experienced Commander, in his passage round the world, excited the curiosity of many to inquire into the nature of a malady accompanied with such extraordinary appearances. It was acknowledged, that the best descriptions of it are met with in the accounts of voyages: but it was regretted, that those were the productions only of seamen; and that no physician conversant with this disease at sea, had undertaken to throw light upon the subject, and clear it from the obscurity under which it has lain in the works of physicians who practised only at land. Some time afterwards, the society of surgeons of the Royal navy published their laudable plan for improving medical knowledge, by the labours of its several members; who have opportunities of inspecting Nature, and examining diseases, under the varied influence of different climates, seasons, and soils. I then wrote a paper on the scurvy, with a design of having it published by them. It appeared to me a subject worthy of the strictest inquiry: and I was led upon this occasion to consult several authors who had treated of the disease; where I perceived mistakes which have been attended, in practice, with dangerous and fatal consequences. There appeared to me an
evident

evident necessity of rectifying those errors, on account of the pernicious effects they have already visibly produced. But as it is no easy matter to root out old prejudices, or to overturn opinions which have acquired an establishment by time, custom, and great authorities; it became therefore requisite for this purpose, to exhibit a full and impartial view of what has hitherto been published on the scurvy; and that in a chronological order, by which the sources of those mistakes may be detected. Indeed, before this subject could be set in a clear and proper light, it was necessary to remove a great deal of rubbish. Thus, what was first intended as a short paper to be published in the memoirs of our medical navy-society, has now swelled to a volume, not altogether suitable to the plan and institution of that laudable and learned body.

*I cannot, however, upon this occasion, omit acknowledging with gratitude the many excellent practical observations I have been favoured with by some of its most worthy members; especially by the ingenious Mr Ives of Gosport; and Mr John Murray, an eminent surgeon at Wells, in Norfolk. Notwithstanding which advantages, I am sensible of many inaccuracies and imperfections in
this*

this performance. They are perhaps the more numerous, as it has been sent to the press sooner than was at first intended. There are, however, two things that may appear exceptionable, which I ought here particularly to mention.

The first is the plan of the work.

I am sorry to find myself under a necessity of offering what some of my readers may think very indifferent entertainment, and that at their setting out, in the critical chapters of the first part. But it was not easy to fall upon a method equally adapted to all readers: nor indeed is the arrangement of the several chapters a matter of any great importance. The order here followed, is that in which it ought to be perused by physicians and men of learning, who have made this disease their study, and are previously acquainted with former writings upon it. It was necessary, in order to prevail with some of these gentlemen to peruse the second part with less prejudice against me, to endeavour first to remove such objections as might arise from doctrines imbibed in younger years, in schools and universities. Others, who are not so well acquainted with the subject, I would advise to begin with the second part; which

will enable them to form a better judgment of the first. The *Bibliotheca scorbutica*, or the collection of authors on the scurvy, is placed at the latter end of the book, as proper to be consulted in the dictionary-way. And it is to be remarked, that when, to avoid repetitions in the first and second parts, an author's name is barely mentioned, recourse must be had to the Alphabetical Index; which points out the page where the title of the book referred to, or its abridgment in part 3. is to be found.

In the order of the chapters, the prevention of the disease precedes its cure: and the first being the most material, I have thrown great part of the latter into it; this method of treating the scurvy suiting it better than perhaps any other. It will appear, that in the plan I have pursued, I had in view an author whose book has met with a general good reception, Astruc de morbis venericis; and were other diseases treated in like manner, it would greatly abridge the enormous, and still increasing number of books in our science.

What may be deemed by critics equally exceptionable with the order of the chapters, are some few repetitions. But in certain cases they were necessary,

necessary,

necessary, in order to obviate prejudices at the time they might naturally arise, and to enforce the argument.

As to the contents of the book in general :

In the first part, I have endeavoured, by a connected course of reasoning in the several chapters, to establish what is there advanced, upon the clearest evidence, confirmed by some of the best authorities ; and have laid aside all systems and theories of this malady which were found to be disavowed by nature and facts. Where I have been necessarily led, in this disagreeable part of the work, to criticise the sentiments of eminent and learned authors, I have not done it with a malignant view of depreciating their labours, or their names ; but from a regard to truth, and to the good of mankind. I hope such motives will, to the candid, and to the most judicious, be a sufficient apology for the liberties I have assumed.

Dies diem docet.

The principal chapters of the second part, containing a description of this disease, its causes, the means of preventing and curing it, are also

founded upon attested facts and observations, without suffering the illusions of theory to influence and pervert the judgment. For, that things certain may precede what is uncertain, the theory, and the inferences from it, are placed at the latter end.

In the third part, where I have given an abridgment of what has been written upon the subject by the most celebrated medical authors, and others, I have always endeavoured to express their sentiments with as much clearness and conciseness as I could. I have indeed through the whole aimed at perspicuity rather than elegance of diction, as most proper in a book of science. To know a disease, and to cure it, being the two things most essential to be learned; I have therefore transcribed the symptoms and cure of the scurvy from those authors, where they do not entirely copy from each other.

C O N.