

**ANNALS OF CHOLERA:  
FROM THE  
EARLIEST PERIODS  
TO THE YEAR 1817**

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Annals of cholera: from the earliest periods to the year 1817 by John Macpherson

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**JOHN MACPHERSON**

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Dedicated to

THE PROFESSORS

DR. MARX VON PETTENKOFER, OF MUNICH,

AND

DR. C. A. WUNDERLICH, OF LEIPZIG,

AND TO THE MEMORY OF

THE LATE PROFESSOR

DR. W. GRIESINGER, OF BERLIN,

IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR LABOURS IN PROMOTING THE STUDY OF THE

ÆTIOLOGY OF CHOLERA,

AND IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEETING IN LEIPZIG AT

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1866.





## P R E F A C E.

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THE cholera problem remains unsolved; and, unfortunately, it is constantly kept before our eyes in Europe, as well as in India.

The greatest variety of opinion is entertained respecting the origin of the disease, its mode of propagation, and its mode of operation on the human system; and, above all, regarding its method of cure. The mortality of those attacked appears to increase in India, and not to diminish in Europe.

Under these circumstances, while so much remains to be ascertained—while so much is written about the present of the disease, and, admittedly, much of it to little purpose—while Cholera Reports continue to be so prolix, it is to be regretted that the old history of the disease has been very much overlooked, and that, in consequence, many erroneous impressions prevail concerning it. Nor is it surprising that this should be the case, for all the data requisite to enable one to form a correct judgment

on many points, have never yet been fully put before the world.

Some of the erroneous opinions are these :—

It is still the popular belief that Asiatic cholera is a disease, which dates only from the year 1817.

The latest and best informed authorities in hygiene and in physical science tell us, that the disease originated in the Sunderbunds, or in a small way at Jessore, in that year.

A particular mode of treatment is propounded as a novelty, and a distinguished advocate of it admits, that it had been made some trial of about fifty years ago, when it would have been more exact to say, that it had been known for the last 2000 years.

It is obvious that correct information on such points, which are simple matters of fact, that an acquaintance with the theory and the treatment and the habits of cholera in the past, ought to enable us to take wider views of it in the present, and should afford a useful corrective to theoretical interpretations of the disease, and, indeed, to the action of Governments sometimes taken upon them.

The history of the past should aid us in forming our opinions on such subjects as the following :—

How far any new causes favouring the origin or the spread of cholera came into operation about the year 1817.