

**ON SPERMATORRHŒA AND CERTAIN  
FUNCTIONAL DERANGEMENTS AND DEBILITIES  
OF THE GENERATIVE SYSTEM: THEIR NATURE,  
TREATMENT AND CURE; REVELATIONS OF  
QUACKS AND QUACKERY: A SERIES OF  
LETTERS BY "DETECTOR," REPRINTED FROM  
"THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR"**

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On Spermatorrhœa and Certain Functional Derangements and Debilities of the Generative System: Their Nature, Treatment and Cure; Revelations of Quacks and Quackery: A Series of Letters By "Detector," Reprinted from "The Medical Circular" by F. B. Courtenay

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**F. B. COURTENAY**

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ON  
**S P E R M A T O R R H Œ A**  
AND  
CERTAIN FUNCTIONAL DERANGEMENTS  
AND  
DEBILITIES  
OF THE  
**GENERATIVE SYSTEM:**

THEIR NATURE, TREATMENT, AND CURE.

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*revised*  
BY F. B. COURTENAY,

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SURGEON TO THE METROPOLITAN INFIRMARY FOR THE CURE OF  
STRUCTURE OF THE URETHRA.

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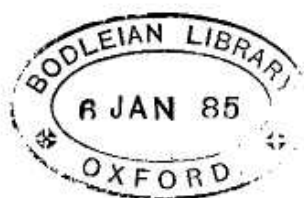
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## P R E F A C E

TO THE THIRTEENTH EDITION.



NEARLY sixty years have elapsed since I commenced my professional career by being apprenticed (as the fashion then was) to Messrs. Banks and Jones, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, practising as Surgeon-Apothecaries—the phrase used in those days to designate medical general practitioners. Subsequently, I resided as assistants with the late Mr. Welch, at Stanstead, in Essex. From thence I went to reside with Mr. Nedham, of Belgrave Gate, Leicester, who was a gentleman of great eminence in the profession, and who held the appointments of Senior Surgeon to the Leicester County Infirmary, Fever House, Lunatic Asylum, the County and Town Gaols, and was, at the same time, Surgeon to several charities existing in that town. On leaving Leicester, and after spending some time as a student at Guy's, I went to reside with the late Mr. Stevens, at Pewsey, Wilts. All of these gentlemen had large practices. At the first and the last places I had unusual opportunities of studying my profession in purely agricultural districts. Whilst

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at Leicester I had the inestimable advantage of acquiring a knowledge of it not only among all classes of the usual residents of a manufacturing town, but also amongst county families.

Looking back now to those days, I feel that I owe all the success I have since met with in my professional life to the fund of general and practical medical and surgical knowledge I then acquired. It is true that, at an early period of my career as a consulting surgeon, I adopted and devoted myself to the study and treatment of a special class of diseases—namely, those incidental to the Genito - Urinary Organs. But I did not do so without having a competent guide, philosopher, and friend in my late father, who, for a period of forty antecedent years, had a large special practice in this class of maladies. I think, then, that I may claim to hold, in the narrow compass of my own brain, a combined experience of eighty-nine years in the treatment of the maladies which have formed the subject of my speciality. Notwithstanding the advantages derived from my late father's tuition, without having acquired the large



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amount of general experience I did whilst resident with the gentlemen I have referred to, I should, doubtless, have been much less fit to enter upon the career I subsequently followed.

I have been in some degree led into making these observations by the discussion of the subject of Specialism which has recently appeared in the *Lancet* consequent on some remarks made by a well-known physician, and which have formed the subject of a *pro.* and *con.* correspondence in that journal by others. I trust I may not be thought presumptuous, considering my position, experience, and age, in expressing my firm conviction that specialism, when practised by men who have fully qualified themselves by study and experience to practise in all the various branches of medicine, is an unmixed good, both to the profession and the public. At all events, I am sure that this is the general feeling. For example, one of the most common questions I have asked me by patients and friends is: "Who is a good man to go to for the Heart, the Liver, Lungs, Gout?" and so on, as the case may be. And I therefore trust that those who are honestly

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impelled to devote themselves to the special study and treatment of any one, or any class of diseases, will not be deterred from doing so by a senseless and prejudiced outcry, always bearing in mind that they should, in their conduct towards their patients, practice the same candour and kind consideration which, for the most part, so honourably distinguish all classes of the noble profession of which I am a humble member.

In introducing this Edition I have found no cause to make any alteration in what has been previously written; but, my publishers having called upon me to revise for a new issue, I have confined myself to the addition of a few cases, selected almost at random from my note-book and letters, which demonstrate the results of the system I have adopted for a long period, and as it has been attended by such a gratifying uniformity of success I have never found the need of introducing any radical modifications.

F. B. COURTENAY.

2 CHANDOS STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE,  
*December 1st, 1884.*

P R E F A C E  
T O T H E E L E V E N T H E D I T I O N .



It is exactly twenty-one years since the First Edition of this *brochure* was published. At that time, after twenty years' experience, I ventured to assert that the various subjects on which it treats had, under the combined influences of professional fallacies, popular delusions, and the vilest quackery, become one of the social evils of the day, and that it was time some attempt should be made to stem the torrent of unnecessary alarm, causeless mental suffering, and extortion, to which both the real and imaginary sufferers under certain diseases of the generative system were daily exposed. With this object in view, I endeavoured to present such a common sense and plain account of the nature, consequences, and treatment of the class of maladies referred to, as would be at once intelligible and consoling to those who might in reality or imagination