

LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE, ITS CAUSES, NATURE, AND TREATMENT

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Lateral curvature of the spine, its causes, nature, and treatment by R. W. Tamplin

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R. W. TAMPLIN

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OF THE

SPINE,

ITS CAUSES, NATURE, AND TREATMENT.

BY

R. W. TAMPLIN, F.R.C.S.E.

SURGEON TO, AND LECTURER ON DEFORMITIES AT, THE ROYAL
ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, BLOOMSBURY SQUARE;

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, ETC.



LONDON :

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

1852.

160. h. 8.

TO

ARCHIBALD BILLING, Esq.

M.D. A.M. F.R.S.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;
MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON;
HONORARY AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES OF FLORENCE,
BRUSSELS, DRESDEN, AND NEW YORK;
FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE AND OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE
IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, AND PHYSICIAN, OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL;
PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTERIAN SOCIETY;
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, ETC.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE, BY PERMISSION,

Respectfully Dedicated,

WITH THE SINCERE GRATITUDE OF HIS FAITHFUL FRIEND
AND FORMER PUPIL,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE substance of the following pages has already appeared in my series of "Lectures on the Nature and Treatment of Deformities*." Through the advice of many professional friends,—and of one, especially, whose daughter has been under my care, and who, during the progress of the case, has from time to time put various questions to me as to the principle and plan of treatment I adopt,—I have been induced to publish in a separate form, my views and treatment of Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

* Longman and Co. 1846.

In doing so, I am influenced by a sincere desire to advance what I believe to be correct views.

That the subject is one upon which a general knowledge by no means prevails, will not be denied: hence the existence of so many books, treatises, &c. respecting it. In the words of a professional friend—“No well-informed surgeon will, now-a-days, dispute respecting the management of a distorted or dislocated limb: it is only in matters which are still in doubt, or regarding which the general information is incomplete, that contrariety of opinion and of practice exists.”

Convinced that Lateral Curvature, so formidable in its effects, is as simple in its nature,

and as easy of cure, as many which come successfully under the care of the surgeon, I again put forth my views and suggestions for its treatment. They are the result of many years' experience, and confirmed by daily observation; and I confidently submit them for the consideration of the profession.

I may here mention that patients very frequently state to me that, when consulting surgeons of eminence even on account of Lateral Curvature of the Spine, they have been dismissed with an assurance that "they would outgrow their disease." On my best observation and experience, I am induced to consider this a grave error.

It is opposed, I think, to sound physiological

views of the disease in question; and, certainly,
I have never witnessed any such instances of
spontaneous cure.

33, OLD BURLINGTON STREET :

January 1852.

ERRATUM.

Page 21, line 1, for "crutches," read *couches*.

rence, though comparatively but little attention is paid to it by professional men, in a purely scientific or physiological view. By lateral curvature is understood that condition in which the spine, deviating from its perpendicular direction, produces an alteration in the position of the ribs, scapulæ, and the muscles attached, with a corresponding change in the form of the cavities of the chest, and, at times,