

**ON
HAEMORRHOIDAL
DISORDERS**

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On haemorrhoidal disorders by John Gay

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ON
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DISORDER.

BY

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etc., etc., etc.*



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PREFACE.

THE papers of which this little memoir is a revised reprint were recently published in the columns of the *Lancet*; and I should have sought no further means of making their contents known, had I not discovered, on further investigation, that some points needed restatement—more especially those that related to the hepatic system. Upon the consideration of these I entered somewhat reluctantly, for I felt that, according to conventional usage, this was a department of medicine that should not come within my special province. I, however, waived this objection, under the conviction that a surgeon who measures his aspirations by the scalpel is not fitted for the discharge of all his professional obligations, and that, on the other hand, *he* is best qualified for these who has most diligently cultivated, by the aid of anatomy, physiology, and pathology, the whole domain of medical science. Of these, I claim for anatomy the foremost place.

The true surgeon must ever be a physician, practised in an Art that belongs largely, though not exclusively, to his own craft. Manipulative skill is possessed in lesser or greater degree by all mankind, but it acquires a special dignity when refined by the knowledge of the physician and employed by him for the attainment of his ends. In illustration of this I need only refer to the example of Hippocrates and to his "Iatrium" or the "Physician's Establishment, or Surgery." The opinion that a surgeon must be a physician also is steadily gaining ground, and I have accordingly ventured to throw off the trammels of conventional surgery, by discussing hepatic disorder in relation to a disease with which it is alleged to be closely affianced.

The views here advanced may be altogether visionary, but they can have no influence for harm. Not designing this little publication as an "essay" or a "treatise,"—in neither of which it could hold a place with the monographs of, amongst others, Syme, Quain, Bushe, Copeland, Curling, Henry Smith (notably his admirable contribution to the last edition of "Holmes' Surgery"), and Allingham's practical treatise,*—I have made but

* "On Diseases of the Rectum."

slight references to the works of these authors, and scarcely any to those of Duret, Richard, Bert, and Budin, since a becoming tribute to the general excellence of these contributions in surgery would have required a work far beyond my original plan.

J. G.

FINSBURY PAVEMENT,

1882.



ON HÆMORRHOIDAL SWELLINGS, OR "PILES."

THE study of Hæmorrhoidal Swellings, or "Piles," cannot lead to any very satisfactory results unless based upon an exact and comprehensive knowledge of the venous system, not only as this relates to its general or *common*, but to its local or *special*, anatomy and physiology. Such a remark may be said to be so trite as scarcely to be called for; but the small amount of absolute fact, in comparison with conjecture, that pervades the general contributions to our literature on veins, and the diseases to which they are prone, calls for explanation; and I cannot but think that this is due to the scant sum of related knowledge that we possess of the premises upon which reliable conclusions on such subjects can alone be based. The works of Fabricius ab Aquapendente, Vicq-d'Azyr, Walter, Loder, and their immediate followers, for instance, supply us with examples of the kind of information that is needed in order to a full comprehension of