# LECTURES ON THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

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Lectures on the Diagnosis and Treatment by C. E. Brown-Sequard

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# C. E. BROWN-SEQUARD

# LECTURES ON THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT



# **LECTURES**

ON THE

## DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

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# FUNCTIONAL NERVOUS AFFECTIONS.

BY

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## PREFACE.

THE recent immense advances of our knowledge as regards the physiology of the nervous system and the action of remedies, have thrown a great deal of light on the symptoms and treatment of functional nervous affections. Medical practitioners, becoming daily more and more learned in physiology, are now constantly applying the new physiological notions to the practice of their art, and considerable progress in the science and practice of medicine, especially as regards organic and functional nervous affections, has resulted therefrom.<sup>1</sup>

The vast field, opened sixteen years ago by the two fundamental experiments on the sympathetic nerve, which show the effects of its paralysis and those of its irritation on blood vessels, and, consequently, on circulation, animal heat, and nutrition, has already been considerably fertilized. Since the time when I first described, in a course of Lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons, of England, the morbid phenomena resulting from a paralysis or an irritation of the vaso-motor nerves, the study of these important phenomena has been pushed forward with great energy and success, by a large number of

A good illustration of the importance of the application of physiology to the practice of medicine has been given by Dr. Howard F. Damon, in his recent very interesting and ingenious work on "The Neuroses of the Skin: their Pathology and Treatment."

physiologists and medical practitioners; and if there is a fault now as regards the influence of vaso-motor nerves, it is certainly not that too little attention is paid to it, but rather that too many morbid phenomena are ranged under the badly defined title of vaso-motor neuroses. Indeed, frequent mistakes are made by many physicians, who attribute to effects of paralysis or irritation of the vaso-motor nerves symptoms which are due to similar alterations of a totally different set of nerves, constituting what should be called nutritive or secretory neuroses.

I intend, in these lectures, to give a practical history of the diagnosis and treatment of neuroses, founded upon clinical observation, enlightened by physiology and experimental pathology and therapeutics. The lectures will be grouped into three parts, each of which will form a complete work by itself; the first part relating to general remarks on the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of neuroses; the second, to the history of each of the pure functional nervous affections; the third, to vaso-motor and nutritive neuroses, and to functional nervous affections due to syphilis or to rheumatism, to diseases of the kidneys, the liver, &c., or to alterations of the blood, &c.

The first part, which now appears, will be soon followed by the two others.

C. E. BROWN-SÉQUARD.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., May, 1868.

# PART I.

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