
**Pediatrics, the Hygienic and Medical Treatment of
Children, Volume 1**

Dunn Charles Hunter

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Author: Dunn Charles Hunter

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PEDIATRICS

and Medical Treatment

OF

CHILDREN

BY

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IN PEDIATRICS, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
IN CHIEF AT THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL

THE TEACHINGS OF THOMAS MORGAN ROTCH, M. D.

VOLUME I

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To

CLARENCE JOHN BLAKE, M.D., O.M. (Vienna), F.A.C.S.

Professor of Otology (Emeritus), Harvard University

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED

As a tribute to his high professional attainments and to his unfailing
interest in the welfare of children, and in grateful
remembrance of many acts of kindness

BY THE AUTHOR

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PREFACE

The "Pediatrics" of Dr. Thomas Morgan Rotch was for many years the official text-book used in the Harvard Medical School. Professor Rotch originated many new ideas, and his book contained many contributions of permanent value in the teaching of pediatrics. The last edition was published in 1906, and is now entirely out of date. At the time of Dr. Rotch's death, he was contemplating the bringing out of a new edition.

It seemed a pity that the permanent and distinctive features of Dr. Rotch's teaching, which constitute the foundation of the teaching of pediatrics at Harvard, should not be preserved in written form. As much therefore of this teaching as has seemed to the author of permanent value, has been incorporated in the present work, with such revision as modern progress demands.

The work is not, however, designed to be merely a revision of Dr. Rotch's book. It is designed to be an entirely new modern text-book of the diseases of infancy and childhood.

Recent progress in the diagnosis and treatment of disease is becoming more and more centered upon the problems of etiology. For this reason, especial attention has been devoted to the discussion of the causes of the various diseased conditions of early life. Modern diagnosis concerns itself less with names than in former times, and consists in a recognition of the nature of the lesions and functional disturbances which constitute disease, and of their causes. Modern treatment concerns itself mainly with the prevention or removal of etiological factors.

Progress in knowledge is so rapid, that before a book on any subject in medicine is published, it is likely to be already out of date. One reason for this is that the writers of text-books hesitate to incorporate many new advances in research for fear that they will not stand the test of final proof. This leads to the exclusion of much material which does prove of final value, and justifies the criticism that the latest advances, the things which are being most widely discussed, are not to be found in the most recent text-books. The author has in this book attempted to obviate this difficulty, by means of a special subdivision under each disease, which, under the heading of Problems and Research, deals with the most recent advances in scientific medicine, and summarizes the problems awaiting future solution. The reader can thus easily distinguish the proven facts from the interesting and suggestive theories.

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