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# **Modern Therapeutics**

**Napheys George Henry**

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**Title: Modern Therapeutics**

**Author: Napheys George Henry**

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MODERN  
MEDICAL  
THERAPEUTICS:  
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A COMPENDIUM OF  
RECENT FORMULÆ

AND

SPECIFIC THERAPEUTICAL DIRECTIONS,

FROM THE PRACTICE OF EMINENT CONTEMPORARY  
PHYSICIANS, AMERICAN AND FOREIGN.

By GEORGE H. NAPHEYS, A. M., M. D., ETC.

SIXTH EDITION, ENLARGED AND REVISED.



PHILADELPHIA:

D. G. BRINTON, 115 SOUTH SEVENTH ST.,

1879.

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FROM THE PRESS OF THE  
INQUIRER P. & P. CO.,  
LANCASTER, PA.

N19  
1879

## PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

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In presenting the sixth edition of this work to the medical public, the editor has endeavored to render it worthy the very favorable reception it has had, by subjecting it to a thorough and careful revision. The progress of therapeutics has been very marked within the last few years. Standard treatises on Practice, written by men still living, have in many instances become in great part obsolete. WATSON and WOOD, AITKEN and TANNER, no longer represent the best therapeutics of the day. Their methods and their remedies have been largely superseded; and the practitioner who would keep abreast of the advances made in his profession must look to a more modern class of writers for his information.

The recognition of this fact has led to many substitutions in the present edition. The monographs and treatises, as well as the numerous medical periodicals of the last year or two, have been carefully examined and collated, so as to render this work in reality what it professes to be—a treatise on *modern* therapeutics. At the same time, the effort has been made to exercise a judicious conservatism in regard to long-known and well-tried remedies; and to avoid admitting what is new simply because it is new.

The additions to the subjects treated of are considerable. Among them may be noted Typhus Fever, Yellow Fever, Mercurialism, Plumbism, and a number of diseases of children. This department has indeed been more than doubled in size, and it is represented in an extent more commensurate with its importance than in any previous edition. The section on diseases of women, a subject now generally omitted from works on Practice, has been reserved to form the basis of a separate and complete compilation, to appear at an early day.

The thoroughness of the present revision has led to the re-writing of almost every page of the volume ; and its extent may further be judged from the fact that the number of new names added to the Index of Authors in this edition is *one hundred and eighty-eight* more than were in the last.

*Philadelphia, November, 1878.*

## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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(TO THE FIFTH EDITION.)

THE active demand, which in less than a year has exhausted the fourth edition of the present work, testifies in the strongest terms to the real and great value it has to the practitioner of medicine. The unanimous opinion of the leading medical journals, and the verdict of those who have purchased it, have been to the same effect.

The editor, therefore, has felt it a duty to prepare the present edition with as little delay as possible, consistent with a thorough revision down to the latest date. By separating the work into two independent books, one on Medical Therapeutics, the other on Surgical Therapeutics, an opportunity has been offered to treat each subject in a more complete manner, and to introduce a number of important topics not previously discussed.

Thus in the present edition of the Medical Therapeutics, will not only almost every article be found revised and extended, but a large number added to those in the last edition. \* \* \* \*

All the additions have been drawn from the most recent authorities, and in a number of instances from unpublished sources, which have been kindly placed at the disposal of the editor. For these and other assistance in preparing this edition, the editor desires to return his thanks to all who have thus aided him, and especially to Drs. C. C. VANDERBECK, LAWRENCE TURNBULL, F. PEYRE PORCHER, J. B. MATTISON, and T. D. CROTHERS.

As to the nature and purpose of this work, and the points in which it differs from works of similar title, the following extract from the preface to the fourth edition will be in place:

"This work stands alone, of its kind, in medical literature. It



presents the Art of Therapeutics in all its aspects, and divested of that barren theorizing which has been its bane. Acquainting the reader with the exact treatment of each disease by living clinical teachers and careful practitioners of several countries, it vastly widens his therapeutic resources, prevents him from becoming a routinist, and inspires him with confidence in the remedies he employs.

“So far from leading him to become a mere *formularum præscriptor*, the diversity it exhibits teaches him independence of thought; while the care with which the indications calling for particular remedies or combinations are given, awakens and instructs his powers of clinical observation.

“But this remark is not intended to belittle the value of definite formulæ. The author has most wisely preserved these whenever possible. By skillful combinations, nauseous articles are rendered palatable, which is often no small matter; ingredients of facile decomposition may be given permanence; the labors of the pharmacist are lightened; and, more than all, the efficiency of pharmaceutical products may be very largely increased.

“The intelligent recognition of the last-mentioned fact may be claimed as one of the later advances of medical science. The polypharmacy of our forefathers in the profession has disappeared, not giving way to any nonsensical “law of the single remedy,” as Homœopathy advocates, but to a clear insight into the *synergic* action of remedies, by virtue of which a judicious combination of several drugs acts in a given direction more forcibly than any one of them singly. It is needless here to quote instances of this truth. They may be found in abundance in the pages which follow.”

In addition to what is here stated, the following extracts from the Author's Preface to the fourth edition (which he did not live to complete) gives additional information on what he aimed to accomplish in his work, and some of the details of its plan:

“This volume differs from ordinary works on the Practice of Medicine, in being devoted *exclusively* to Practice; from works on

**Materia Medica**, in treating only of Therapeutics ; and from a **Formulary**, in that it is not a mere collection of prescriptions, but aims at a systematic analysis of all current and approved means of combating disease.

“ As I have received a portion of the matter here presented directly from the authors, in this country and in Europe, this much of the volume will not be found elsewhere. When I have drawn from medical periodicals, the name and date of the journal are given in the text. But where a monograph or systematic treatise has been the source of information, the name of the author and his residence are given, and by consulting the index to his works the reader can readily verify the quotation or abstract of his views.

“ The diseases are arranged in alphabetical order under the general nosological division to which they belong. The treatment of each is first stated as given by different practitioners, then by various hospitals, after which follows a *résumé* of the more important remedies employed in its management.\* An asterisk\* designates those especially commended.

“ American, English and Continental practitioners are quoted in nearly equal numbers. As I have not attempted to mention every remedy employed for a disease, but only such as have some good authority, or else a very plausible theory for their use, so I have endeavored to select as authorities either practitioners of acknowledged reputation, or else such as have sustained their therapeutic suggestions by sound reasoning and sufficient evidence.”

The plan here laid down by the author has, with unimportant modifications, been observed by the editor, and will, it is believed, be found a serviceable one by the reader.

\* This plan has been somewhat modified in the present (sixth) edition, the arrangement being more in accordance with the indications of the disease.



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