Syllabus of the courses of Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Physic and on obstetrics and the diseases of women and children delivered in the University of New-York: by David Hosack.

Contributors

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SYLLABUS

OF

THE COURSES OF LECTURES

ON THE

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC

AND

ON OBSTETRICS

AND

THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN,

DELIVERED

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW-YORK.

BY DAVID HOSACK, M. D.

Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and of Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and Children,

NEW-YORK:

Printed by Van Winkle, Wiley & Co., Printers to the University.

1816.

LECTURES

ON

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

INTRODUCTORY to the practical subjects which this course embraces, and for the benefit of those pupils who may be beginning, or may have recently entered upon, the study of medicine, Dr. Hosack commences by exhibiting a compendious view of the structure of the human body; more especially directing the attention of his pupils to the various functions it performs in a state of health, including those appertaining to the mind as well as the body.

In this view, particular attention is given to those functions which physiologists have denominated the natural functions of the system. Under this head, the various excretions, both as regards their influence in health, as well as the changes they undergo by disease, receive that attention which their importance demands.

The causes of disease, whether inherent in the system, or produced by the operation of external agents, are next enumerated.

The influence of climate, soil, food, sleep, cloathing, exercise, both mental and bodily, the passions of the mind, the functions peculiar to the different sexes, the various trades and occupations of life, in as far as they are either directly or indirectly the sources of disease, are severally noticed in this part of the course: as the subject of cli-

mate embraces circumstances equally interesting to the philosopher and physician, particular attention is given to the influence which it exerts upon the bodily and intellectual powers of man. In connection with this discussion, due regard is also paid to the sensible and adventitious qualities of the atmosphere, and their agency in the production of endemic and epidemic disorders. Dr. Hosack next inquires how far the functions of the constitution possess in themselves the power of removing diseases, as ascribed to them by most of the ancient, and by some modern, physicians; and concludes the preliminary part of the course with an outline of that preparatory knowledge which it is necessary for the physician to possess when he approaches the bedside of the sick.

He next proceeds to a description of the various diseases to which the human frame is exposed, arranging the whole in such manner as he conceives best calculated to assist the student in acquiring a knowledge of the characters of each, the causes which produce them, and the means to be employed for their prevention and cure. With this view, Dr. Hosack distributes diseases into the eight following classes:

1. Febres, (Fevers,) embracing the various forms of Intermitting,

Remitting, and

Continued Fevers.

- 2. Phlegmasiæ, (Inflammations,) containing all diseases of an inflammatory nature.
- 3. Cutanei, (diseases of the skin,) in which all the cutaneous diseases are arranged agreeably to the orders adopted by Dr. Willan, and the more recent modifications of Dr. Bateman.
- 4. Profluvia, (discharges,) including all hemorrhages, as well as the morbid discharges which take place from the excretory organs of the system.

5. Suppressiones, (suppressions,) or those diseases which

consist in a suppression or diminution of the natural eva-

- 6. Neuroses, (nervous diseases,) embracing all those which more especially reside in the nervous system, including the various diseases of the mind as well as those of the body.
- 7. Cachexiæ, (vitiations,) the diseases more peculiarly arising from a morbid condition of the fluids of the system; including those which arise from their redundance, either general or partial, as the various forms of dropsy, and those disorders which proceed from a vitiated state of the circulating mass.
- 8. Locales, (local diseases,) containing tumours, dislocations, wounds, ulcers, and other diseases usually denominated local.*

Having pointed out the objects and advantages of this nosological arrangement, Dr. Hosack proceeds to delineate the various diseases which it comprehends.

The subject of fevers, which fall under the daily observation of every practitioner, and which derive peculiar importance from the epidemics with which the United States have been visited since the year 1791, receives especial notice in this course.

When describing the treatment of diseases, Dr. Hosack not only minutely details the remedies to be prescribed, their mode of operation, and the different stages in which they are severally indicated; but the diet and regimen of the sick, including all those circumstances which have an influence upon the character of diseases, and which it is equally the duty of the physician to direct, are also embraced in this course of Lectures.

For a view of the details of Dr. Hosack's classification, see the Amer. Med. and Phil. Reg. vol. ii. p. 270. Its advantages will also be pointed out by the author in a more extensive work on this subject, which, in a short time, will be submitted to the class.

MIDWIFERY

AND

THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

This course, as taught in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, not only embraces the delivery of women in child-bed, but comprehends the diseases peculiar to pregnancy, those attendant upon parturition, those which succeed to delivery connected with the puerperal state, and the diseases of early infancy, especially those which occur during the month.

Dr. Hosack commences this course with a description of the bones of the pelvis, noticing their sexual characteristics, form, situation, dimensions, connexions with each other, and the other parts of the body, including a comparative view of the dimensions and structure of the head of the fœtus; at the same time illustrating, by an extensive collection of preparations, the various deformities of the pelvis, and their effects upon labour. He next proceeds to a description of the soft parts connected with the pelvis, pointing out their structure, relative situation, connexion, the changes which take place in consequence of pregnancy, the vessels which supply them, and the nerves which are distributed upon them, necessary to be known to the accoucheur.

Having described the anatomical structure both of the external and internal organs of generation, he notices their

various functions, the diseases to which they are liable, and the treatment they severally demand. The numerous diseases connected with menstruation are particularly treated of in this part of the course.

The gravid uterus, embracing a view of the changes induced by impregnation; the signs of conception; the structure and growth of the ovum; the circulation of the fœtus, and that which takes place between the mother and child, come next under consideration. The changes produced in the system by pregnancy, the diseases attendant upon it, and their mode of treatment, including the premature expulsion of the fœtus, and the treatment of those accidents which are frequently attendant upon abortion, are then fully detailed.

In the second part of the course, the premonitory signs of labour, the changes which take place during the process of parturition, and the diseases it occasionally produces, are next enumerated.

The several stages and progress of a natural labour; the different classes of labours, the characteristic symptoms of each, and their peculiar treatment, are then minutely described and illustrated upon the machine.

The regimen, or management of women, in child-bed, the diseases which are frequently attendant upon, or succeed to, parturition, and the diseases of the new-born infant, constitute the third part of the course.

On the Theory and Practice of Physic, Dr. Hosack meets his class daily throughout the session. The Lectures on midwifery and the diseases of women and children, are delivered at a separate hour, twice a week.

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