

**An address to the public on diseases of the eye intended chiefly to point out the importance of an early and proper attention in such cases : with remarks on a method lately adopted of treating one of the most frequent diseases to which the eye is subject / by J. Taylor.**

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By J.  
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AN  
ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC  
ON  
*DISEASES of the EYE,*

INTENDED CHIEFLY

To point out the Importance of an early and  
proper Attention in such Cases.

WITH

REMARKS on a Method lately adopted of treating  
one of the most frequent Diseases to which the  
Eye is subject.

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By J. TAYLOR,

OCULIST TO HIS MAJESTY; M. D. of the University of BASLE;  
Member of the HELVETIC Physico-Medical Society; the  
Corporation of Surgeons of LONDON, &c. &c.

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*Qui dat Videre, dat Vivere.*

CIC.

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L O N D O N:

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in the ADELPHI.

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AN  
ADDRESS  
TO  
*THE PUBLIC.*

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OF all the Senses provided for the purposes of Man, Sight appears to be the most indispensable and important; whether we consider it in regard to our preservation, or its extensive powers and uses. This will appear sufficiently evident, if we reflect on the very deplorable state to which those persons are reduced, who are deprived of sight; thereby excluded from various and considerable enjoyments, the power of self-support and defence,—perhaps also rendered an useless and oppressive burthen to their relations, or the community. How pathetically is blindness depicted by the sublime MILTON!

“Seasons return, but not to me returns

“Day; or the sweet approach of even or morn.”



Let us also consider the excruciating pain attendant on the least indisposition of the Eye;—the anxiety—the confinement, and the derangement of health, which are the frequent consequences, when its disorders at first perhaps slight, have not only been painfully lengthened out by injudicious management, but the Eye rendered defective in its functions, injured in its appearance, and at once a continued source of misery to the patient.

However skilful practitioners in general may be in the treatment of other diseases, yet those incident to the Eye and its contiguous parts, are so various in kind, and of so serious a nature, that they form a vast field for observation in themselves, and are of sufficient importance to deserve a peculiar, and indeed unremitting attention.

These considerations, near a century ago, induced my grandfather, the Chevalier TAYLOR, though bred to general practice, to confine himself exclusively to this branch of Surgery.



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Under that able and unrivalled practitioner, my father received his professional education at a very early period of life; and highly distinguished for skill and integrity continued his practice for nearly fifty years.

As two individuals of my family thus successively devoted their time and abilities to this branch of the profession, the benefit to be derived from their extensive practice must have contributed largely to my own knowledge; which united to subsequent experience has peculiarly enabled me to discriminate and relieve the diseases of this organ.

From having studied the various branches of Medicine under the most celebrated teachers, I for many years practised general Surgery; with, I trust, credit to myself, and satisfaction to others: yet in the course of that practice, I always paid particular attention to the Eye and its diseases, as falling more within my immediate province.



Aided by these advantages, I trust it is within my power to propose a plan of treatment far superior to what is commonly adopted; and from the daily evidence of my own success contrasted with the vague and injudicious practice of others, I should presume myself fully authorised to determine upon that mode of cure likely to prove most beneficial.

There are many in this city so criminally presumptuous as to take upon themselves the management of disorders of the Eye, who would appear to be scarcely acquainted even with the names, much less with the structure, of the component parts of this delicate and important organ. What the result of such conduct must be is too obvious to be mentioned.

There are others, whose skill and judgment in the other parts of the profession will remain undisputed; yet from inexperience in this branch, or erroneous theory, are for the most part as unsuccessful as those of the preceding description.



This remark cannot be better illustrated than by the very absurd custom of dropping Laudanum into the Eye when in a state of inflammation; a method recommended and practised by a reputable gentleman in the city. How a method so painful, so unsuccessful, and enforced by such a train of false reasoning, could ever be adopted, I confess surprises me: yet that this statement of the practice is not unfounded, may be proved by a variety of melancholy facts; not merely confined to my own observation, but adduced by others, who have at last relinquished it from conviction of the mischief it occasions.

An address of this nature, at a time when I already hold some rank in the profession, would have been needless, but considering the diseases of the Eye as an abstract and important trust: and attaching to myself a still higher sense of duty—that of opposing the mischievous influence of ignorance and innovation, the motives for my conduct are surely sufficiently obvious.



One might presume that it is scarcely necessary farther to point out the greater chance of safety and relief, reasonably to be expected by those laboring under affections of the Eyes, in their application to a regular practitioner, rather than to those of an opposite description; and actuated by such a sentiment they would naturally select those who have made such diseases their particular object of attention. To men-  
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#### THE END.

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