

M0011464: Thermometers of the type recommended by William Aitken

Publication/Creation

1950

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ts3mtcah>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

CLINICAL THERMOMETERS, specially graduated for Medical Men.

Dr. ATKIN, in his "Science and Practice of Medicine," says—

"The continuous daily use of the Thermometer greatly facilitates the clinical recognition of diseases. It adds the hour of occurrence in coming to certain and aids continuous and so "relieves him of much anxiety of mind in doubtful cases." And further, "The use of the Thermometer tends to elucidate the Natural History of all diseases where fever is present," and in all acute diseases it is highly important to observe the "modulation of the pulse, respiration, and temperature."

In temperate climates, the maximum temperature is in the early morning after waking; it fluctuates till midnight, and is lowest at midnight; average difference, 6.8°.

In tropical regions, the minimum temperature is in the early morning after waking; it fluctuates and is highest during the

day; average temperature throughout the year, 98.4° Fahr. The temperature of the air averaging 55° Fahr.

As a general rule, an increase of temperature of one degree above 98° Fahr. corresponds with an increase of ten beats of the pulse per minute.

This case contains two very sensitive Thermometers, one curved for easy adaptation to the patient's axilla, and capable of being read in situ. The second straight, and registering the maximum temperature.

Directions.—The curved Thermometer having been held in the hand, plunged into warm water until the mercurial column indicates about 96°, it is then fitted into the patient's axilla, between the fold of skin covering the pectoralis major muscle, and kept thus covered and supported by the soft parts for at

least three minutes. The Thermometer must then be read whilst in situ, taking care that the axis of vision falls perpendicularly on the mercurial column.

The rapidity with which the mercurial column rises depends on the degree of temperature present, and should be carefully noted.

The straight Thermometer is constructed to register the minimum temperature, as devised by Professor J. FILLIUS, and has a very minute portion of air introduced, so as to cut off about half an inch of the mercurial column at the end, which is removed from the bulb. This detached column, termed the "Index," is pushed forward by expansion, and retains its position as the mercury contracts.

This Index is set by holding the instrument firmly in the hand, with the bulb downwards, and giving a rapid swing of the arm. This will raise the detached column to descend and nearly join the main column. Should it not have done so,

repeat the swing of the arm until the Index occupies its proper position.

The Index being thus set, the bulb is applied to the axilla, or any other part of the body that is completely covered, and retained in situ by strapping, or a bandage, and allowed to remain during any interval the maximum temperature of which is required, and is then to be carefully removed, when the top of the Index, or that furthest from the bulb, denotes the maximum temperature during the period of its being in contact.

Thermometric observations should be taken daily, and at the same hour, through the whole continuance of the disease.

The temperature, pulse, and number of respirations per minute, should be all carefully noted daily.

The most complete instructions as to the employment of the Thermometer in disease will be found in Dr. ATKIN'S "Science and Practice of Medicine," 2 vols., 8vo., published by C. CURTIS & Co., Stationers' Hall Court.

