This special edition of

AN INQUIRY
CONCERNING
THE DISEASES AND FUNCTIONS
OF
THE BRAIN,
THE SPINAL CORD,
AND THE NERVES

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PREFACE.

The object of the following work is to call the attention of those practitioners of medicine into whose hands it falls, to the importance of the nervous system; and to persuade them to embrace every opportunity that is presented, for studying its functions and diseases.

For this purpose I have endeavored to give a partial summary of what is now known respecting this system. I have collected a large number of cases explanatory of its diseases and functions—cases that are scattered through many volumes, to which I have added a considerable number that have fallen under my own observation; and have thus sought to indicate the way that this system should be studied in order to increase our knowledge of its functions and our means of remedying its diseases.

In the second part I have briefly treated of a number of diseases the pathology of which is not yet settled. I have not sought to give full accounts of these, but to direct attention to a few important circumstances and such as require further investigation.

Affections of the nervous system have always existed,
and always formed a considerable proportion of the diseases, and those the most obscure, by which the human system has been assailed.

But they have vastly increased with the increase of civilization, and now constitute a far greater proportion of the diseases of mankind, than in past ages, and consequently demand far more attention. If this volume induces but a few, to investigate the affections of this system with care, to record and make known the facts they observe and thus add something to our knowledge of its functions and diseases, it will be all that the author expects.

Hartford, Ct., Jan. 1st, 1840.

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