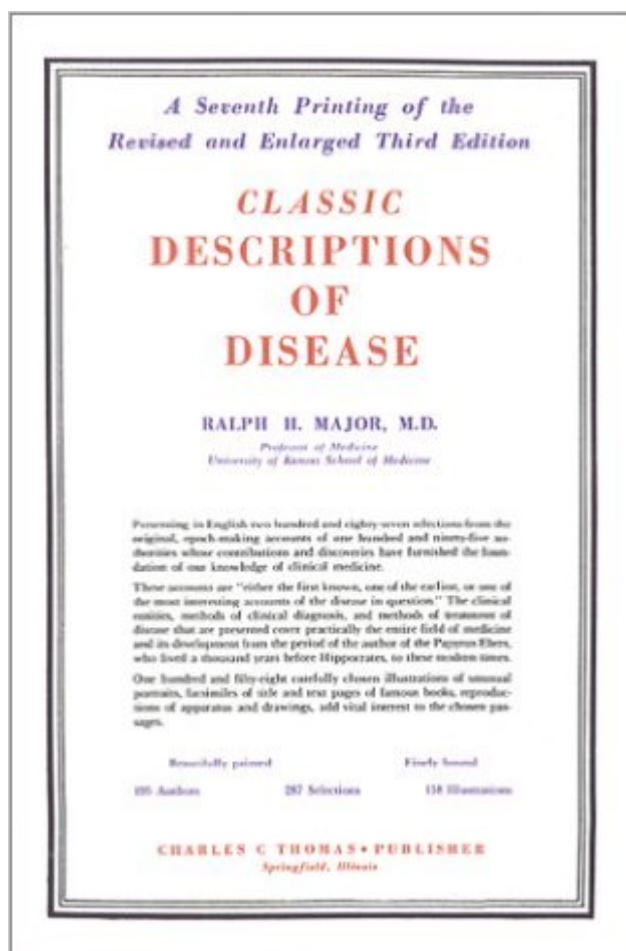


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Classic Descriptions Of Disease: With Biographical Sketches Of The Authors



Synopsis

By Ralph H. Major. This text presents 287 selections from the original, epoch making accounts of authorities whose contributions and discoveries have furnished the foundation of our knowledge of clinical medicine. The articles included are the first known, one of the earliest, or one of the most interesting accounts of the disease in question. The clinical entities, methods of clinical diagnosis, and treatment techniques presented cover virtually the entire field of medicine. Sections are included on infectious diseases, diseases of metabolism, lead poisoning, circulatory system diseases, diseases of the blood, kidney diseases, respiratory diseases, and diseases of the digestive tract.

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This collection of the earliest descriptions of common diseases provides wonderful insights into how early physicians dealt with diseases which, in most cases, they were incapable of treating. The descriptions pay tribute to the observational skills of the earliest physicians, who had little to offer their patients other than a prognosis based on keen diagnostic skills and careful observation. The introduction by Major to each description provides the setting for understanding the period in which each physician wrote. You do not have to be interested in history to appreciate the perspective this work gives on modern medical practice. This would be a particularly good gift for the student beginning medical school. It was given to me on that occasion 30 years ago and I still enjoy reading the descriptions.

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