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978-1-108-06348-7 - The Life of Edward Jenner: Naturalist, and Discoverer of Vaccination

F. Dawtry Drewitt

Frontmatter

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It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

The Life of Edward Jenner

Active in fields spanning medicine, ornithology, zoology and even water-colour painting, Frederick Dawtrey Drewitt (1848–1942) was a prominent fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, exhibited at the Royal Academy, and was involved in governing the National Trust. His particular interest in birds led him to study the work of the physician and naturalist Edward Jenner (1749–1823), who contributed to the field of ornithology through his observations of the cuckoo's behaviour. Jenner is better known, however, as the 'father of immunology' for pioneering the smallpox vaccination – the word 'vaccine' comes from the Latin *vacca* (cow) as Jenner used the cowpox virus to inoculate against smallpox infection in humans. Drewitt had general readers in mind when he wrote about Jenner's extraordinary life and growing worldwide recognition. The first edition of this biography was published in 1931, and this enlarged second edition appeared in 1933.

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EDWARD JENNER, M.D., F.R.S.

From a mezzotint by W. Say, in the British Museum; after a portrait by J. Northcote painted for the Medical Society of Plymouth, 1802.

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THE LIFE OF
EDWARD JENNER

M.D., F.R.S.

NATURALIST, AND DISCOVERER
OF VACCINATION

BY

F. DAWTREY DREWITT

M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.

AUTHOR OF 'THE ROMANCE OF THE APOTHECARIES'
GARDEN,' 'BOMBAY IN THE DAYS OF GEORGE IV,'
'LATIN NAMES OF COMMON PLANTS, THEIR
HISTORY, AND PRONUNCIATION'

SECOND EDITION
(*ENLARGED*)

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

‘THE Life of Edward Jenner,’ by John Baron, was published nearly a century ago. Few of the present generation can have read it; but all naturalists remember his name as the discoverer of the extraordinary activities of the young cuckoo; and all nations gratefully acknowledge their debt to the man who almost banished smallpox from the earth.

A manuscript notebook kept by him, containing his classical observations on the cuckoo, has been lately published by the Royal College of Physicians. The present writer was requested to contribute an introduction to *Jenner’s Note Book*, and was thereby led to the writing of this short account of Jenner’s life, in the hope that it may interest some who are neither doctors nor naturalists.

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