

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

History of Medicine

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 Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.

A physician and medical reformer enthused by the scientific and cultural progress of the Enlightenment as it took hold in Britain, Thomas Percival (1740–1804) wrote on many topics, including public health and demography. His influential publication on medical ethics is considered the first modern formulation. In 1807, his son Edward published this four-volume collection of his father's diverse work. Some of the items here had never been published before, including a selection of Percival's private correspondence and a biographical account written by Edward. Volume 4 contains the third and fourth parts of Percival's *Essays Medical and Experimental*, which were completed following the revised edition that is reissued separately in one volume in the Cambridge Library Collection. The essays reflect Percival's wide range of interests, such as the regulation of hospitals and prisons, and the medical abnormalities he sometimes observed in his patients.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The Works,
Literary, Moral, and Medical,
of Thomas Percival, M.D.

*To which are Prefixed,
Memoirs of His Life and Writings,
and a Selection from
His Literary Correspondence*

VOLUME 4

THOMAS PERCIVAL



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108067362

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1807

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-06736-2 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or
with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
W O R K S
OF
THOMAS PERCIVAL, M.D.
IN FOUR VOLUMES.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE
WORKS,
LITERARY, MORAL,
AND
MEDICAL,
OF
THOMAS PERCIVAL, M.D.

F. R. S. AND A. S.—F. R. S. AND R. M. S. EDIN.

LATE PRES. OF THE LIT. AND PHIL. SOC. AT MANCHESTER; MEMBER OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETIES OF PARIS AND OF LYONS, OF THE MEDICAL
SOCIETIES OF LONDON, AND OF AIX EN PROvence, OF THE
AMERIC. ACAD. OF ARTS, &c. AND OF THE AMERIC.
PHIL. SOC. AT PHILADELPHIA.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

MEMOIRS of his LIFE and WRITINGS,

AND A SELECTION FROM HIS

LITERARY CORRESPONDENCE.

A NEW EDITION.

VOL. IV.

PRINTED BY RICHARD CRUTTWELL, ST. JAMES'S-STREET, BATH;
FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, LONDON.

1807.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

TO THE REVEREND
THOMAS B. PERCIVAL, LL. B.
OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE;
WHOSE
MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL ENDOWMENTS
HAVE SUPERADDED
ESTEEM, RESPECT, AND FRIENDSHIP
TO PATERNAL LOVE;
THIS VOLUME
IS
MOST AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ESSAYS,
MEDICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL,
AND
EXPERIMENTAL.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE completion of this volume has been retarded, nearly twelve months, by various causes. It was the author's intention, to have offered the result of his farther experience concerning the HYDROCEPHALUS INTERNUS, and of the use of MERCURY in AFFECTIONS of the HEAD: And also to have added, to his Remarks on the Improvement of the Manchester Infirmary, some general Observations on the POLITY OF HOSPITALS. But he is, at present, too fully occupied with professional and other engagements, to allow due leisure for these undertakings.

The first, second, and third Parts, into which this work is divided, correspond to the three volumes of former editions. The fourth Part consists of Essays not before comprised in them,

MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 15, 1789.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Lately published,

B Y T H E A U T H O R,

New Editions of the following Works, viz.

I. **A** FATHER'S INSTRUCTIONS, consisting of
MORAL TALES, FABLES, and REFLECTIONS: The seventh
Edition, revised and considerably enlarged. Crown 8vo.

II. MORAL and LITERARY DISSERTATIONS,
being the SEQUEL TO A FATHER'S INSTRUCTIONS:
Second Edition, considerably enlarged. Crown 8vo.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:

To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his

Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

T H E

C O N T E N T S.

P A R T III.

N. B. The additional Essays are marked with an *Asterisk* (*);
and those which have been enlarged with a *Dagger* (†).

	PAGE
<i>PREFACE.</i> - - - - -	xv.
† <i>Observations on the State of Population in Manchester and other adjacent Places.</i>	1.
† <i>On the Small-Pox and Measles.</i> - -	68.
† <i>On the different Quantities of Rain, which fall at different Heights over the same Spot of Ground.</i> - - - - -	85.
† <i>On the Solution of human Calculi by Fixed Air.</i>	102.
<i>On the Nature and Composition of Urinary Calculi.</i> - - - - -	126.
† <i>On the Effects of Fixed Air on the Colours and Vegetation of Plants.</i> - -	133.
<i>On the Action of different Manures.</i> -	158.
<i>On different Absorbents.</i> - - -	161.
<i>On the internal Regulation of Hospitals.</i> -	170.
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x	C O N T E N T S.	PAGE
	<i>Miscellaneous Observations, Cases and Inquiries:</i>	180.
	I. <i>Fatal Effects of Yew Leaves.</i>	- 180.
	II. <i>An extra uterine Fœtus, voided by Stool.</i>	- - - - 182.
	III. <i>The Rarity of the Air a Cause of Hæmorrhages.</i>	- - - - 185.
	IV. <i>Electricity.</i>	- - - - 186.
	V. <i>A poisonous Species of Mushroom.</i>	187.
	VI. <i>Worms discharged from the Lungs.</i>	188.
	VII. <i>Miliary Fever.</i>	- - - - 189.
	VIII. <i>Angina Pectoris.</i>	- - - - 191.
	* IX. <i>Typhus.</i>	- - - - 194.
	* X. <i>Apoplexy.</i>	- - - - 196.
	† XI. <i>Solution of Water in Air.</i>	- 197.
	XII. <i>Affections of the Eyes.</i>	- - 202.
	XIII. <i>Asylum or Lock Hospital.</i>	- 203.

P A R T IV.

<i>Preface.</i>	- - - - - 209.
* <i>On a new and cheap Method of preparing Pot-Ash.</i>	- - - - - 211.
* <i>On the fatal Effects of Pickles impregnated with Copper.</i>	- - - - - 221.
* <i>Speculations on the perceptive Power of Vege- tables.</i>	- - - - - 231.
* <i>Facts and Queries relative to Attraction and Repulsion.</i>	- - - - - 249.
	* Narrative

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.	xi
	PAGE
* <i>Narrative of the Sufferings of a Collier; with Observations on the Effects of Famine.</i>	260.
* <i>A physical Inquiry into the Powers and Ope- rations of Medicines.</i> - -	301.
* <i>On the solvent Powers of Camphor, &c.</i>	305.
* <i>Medical Cautions and Remarks, particularly relative to Pulmonary Disorders.</i> -	329.
* <i>On the Medicinal Uses of Cod Liver Oil.</i>	354.
* <i>On the Nature, Cause, and Cure of the Rabies Canina.</i> - - - -	363.
* <i>Miscellaneous Facts and Observations :</i> -	385.
I. <i>Retrograde Motion of the Lymphatics.</i>	386.
II. <i>Reciprocal sympathy between the Sto- mach and the Lungs.</i> - -	398.
III. <i>Dysury.</i> - - - -	395.
* <i>Miscellaneous practical Observations :</i> -	400.
I. <i>Flowers of Zinc.</i> - - - -	400.
II. <i>Colic.</i> - - - -	405.
III. <i>Hydrocephalus Internus.</i> - -	406.
* <i>An Account of an Earthquake.</i> - -	416.
* <i>On the Silk Cotton of Sumatra.</i> - -	420.
* <i>On the Acid of Tar.</i> - - - -	423.
* <i>On the Construction and Polity of Prisons.</i>	427.
* <i>Remarks relative to the Improvement of the Manchester Infirmary.</i> - - - -	436.

E S S A Y S

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

E S S A Y S

MEDICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL,

A N D

EXPERIMENTAL.

P A R T III.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

T H E

P R E F A C E.

IN the Preface to a former volume, published about three years ago, I availed myself of the authority of the great Lord Bacon; whose plan I have steadily pursued in the collection and arrangement of FACTS, OBSERVATIONS, and EXPERIMENTS. Long and systematic compositions are neither compatible with the extensive engagements of my profession; nor with the attention which is due from me to a numerous family. But in this desultory way, I can employ a vacant hour; beguile the distance of a tedious journey; or divert the anxieties of a feeling heart, with improvement to myself, and, I am willing to hope, with advantage to others.

MANCHESTER, FEB. 6, 1776.

ESSAY

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06736-2 - The Works, Literary, Moral, and Medical, of Thomas Percival, M.D.:
To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of his Life and Writings, and a Selection from his
Literary Correspondence: Volume 4

Thomas Percival

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

E R R A T A .

V O L . I .

Page 37, line 9, for *risiduum* read *residuum*. P. 71, note, l. 1, f. *con-
juction* r. *conjunction*. P. 83, l. 16, f. *dibilitating* r. *debilitating*. P. 141,
note (k), f. *Kaw* r. *Kaww*.

P. 182, l. 1, r. *Est Elephas morbus, qui propter flumina Nili
Gignitur Ægypto in medio.*

P. 191, note (2), f. *Hoffmani* r. *Hoffmanni*. P. 214, note, l. 9, f. *bul-
lient-felib.* r. *bullient. felib.* P. 237, note (d), f. *SCHULTZ* r. *SCHULTZ*.
P. 294, note, l. 3, f. *it* r. *the preceding observations*. P. 377, l. 26,
f. *impervious* r. *impervius*.

V O L . II .

Page 41, note, line 1, f. *Gloucester* r. *Glocester*. P. 289, note (a)
f. *Heatb* r. *Heat*. P. 308, l. 7, f. *But the astringency, &c.* r. *And the
astringency of it, according to my trials, accompanies its colouring matter*.
P. 326, l. 8, f. *trachœa* r. *trachœa*. P. 380, note (i), l. 4, f. *Van-
swieten* r. *Van Swieten*.