

Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room September 2018

ALEXANDER GORDON (1752-1799). A treatise on the epidemic puerperal fever of Aberdeen. First Edition London: Printed for G.G. and J. Robinson., 1795.

In 1780, at the age of 28, with testimonial letters from the Corporation of Surgeons of London, Gordon entered the Royal Navy as a surgeon's mate and advanced to the rank of surgeon. Put on half pay in 1783, he went to London where he studied at the Lying-In Hospital in Shore Street. While there he also attended lectures of Drs. Thomas Denman and William Osborn at the Middlesex Lying-In Dispensary and practised

surgery and dissection at the Westminster Hospital. In 1785 Gordon returned to Aberdeen, gained an MD from Marischal College and entered general practice. He was appointed physician to the Aberdeen Dispensary. During the next nine years there were 12,925 admissions for treatment at this institution. Gordon's main interest was midwifery and obstetrics and, he regularly gave lectures on this subject to the University students. This treatise shows Gordon's insights into the contagious nature of puerperal fever, its epidemiology, pathology and the means of

prevention. Gordon was the first to advance as a definite hypothesis the contagious nature of puerperal fever, thus preceding Holmes and Semmelweis by half a century. He also advocated the disinfection of the clothes of the doctor and midwife.

ECCO
Open Access
Digital Library
Medicine, Science and Technology

A treatise on the epidemic puerperal fever of Aberdeen. By Alexander Gordon, M.D. ...

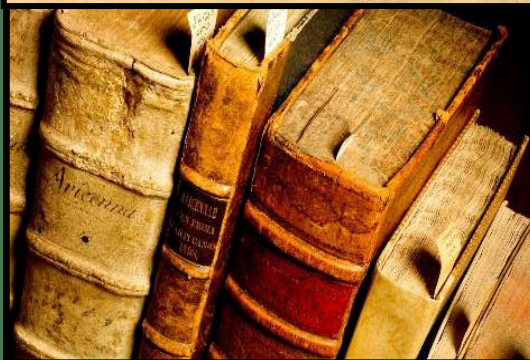
Alexander Gordon



A T A B L E

Containing an Account of those Patients affected with the PUERPERAL FEVER, who were attended by Dr. Gordon, from December 1789 to October 1791.

When taken ill.	No.	Name.	Age.	Residence.	Cured.	Dead.	By whom delivered.
1789.							
December	1	James Garrow's wife	27	Woolman-hill		5th day	Mrs. Blake
Ditto	2	James Smith's wife	30	Ditto		23	Ditto
Ditto	3	John Smith's wife	34	Green		11	Mrs. Elgin
Ditto	4	Al. Menric's wife	25	Hardgate		11	Ditto
1790.							
January	5	John Anthony's wife	25	North-street		3	Dr. Gordon
February	6	Christian Durward	36	Rottenholes		3	Ditto
April	7	Al. Stuart's wife	30	Denburn	1		Mrs. Philp
May	8	William Elrick's wife	34	Exchequer-wynd	2		Mrs. Blake
Ditto	9	Elizabeth Murray	28	North-street		7	Ditto
Ditto	10	Helen Mitchell	30	Ditto		3	Ditto
Ditto	11	Janet Wier	34	Denburn		4	Mrs. Elgin
August	12	Mrs. Johnston	36	Littlejohn's street		5	Mrs. Smith
Ditto	13	Geo. Webster's wife	38	Fowler's-wynd		6	Mrs. Blake



Hardin Library for the Health Sciences

Room 446

University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA 52242

319/335-9154

donna-hirst@uiowa.edu

<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/rbr/>

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES