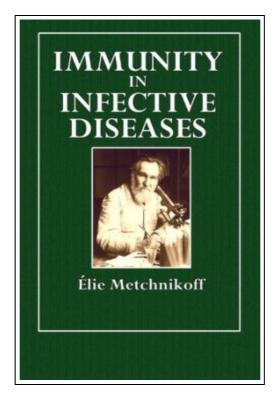
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IMMUNITY IN INFECTIVE DISEASES



Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand ******. A book from the father of Probiotics and Nobel Prize Winner in Medicine, Elie Metchnikoff. An excerpt from a review in The Saturday Review, [1907] The doctrine of phagocytosis which will always remain linked with the name of Metchnikoff, was the fruit of observations upon comparative biology. It is strange that detached researches upon the life-processes of minute marine organisms should revolutionise medicine, but the width of bearing to be allowed to scientific data is notoriously indefinable, as was well demonstrated by the case in point. At the time of Metchnikoff s great discovery microscopists had already established the anatomical facts of inflammation, such as the determination of blood to the menaced area, and the large accumulation there of the motile white cells of the blood. But not until Metchnikoff indicated the capacity of these cells to envelope and digest offending particles of foreign matter was the true significance of the inflammatory reaction brought to light. In the transparent larvae of star-fish he observed that the introduction of a thorn resulted in an accumulation of motile cells around the intruder. Here in a transparent organism, possessing neither blood-vessels nor nervous system, was to be seen in replica, mutatis mutandis, the anatomical picture of inflammation as it occurs in vertebrates. Plainly then, this cellular accumulation was a fundamental factor in the vital response of living structures to injury. Upon such facts he founded the theory that in this process, to which he gave the name phagocytosis, lay the chief weapon of self-defence wielded by the living organism. The theory met with widespread opposition, and when it was discovered that the blood serum of animals immunised against the cholera bacillus...

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