

Editor's Note

The diary has been transcribed verbatim. Contractions of familiar words and word-endings occur throughout and have been retained in the transcription along with the diarist's tendency to use a dash rather than a stop, although, where a sentence obviously ends, this has been replaced by a full stop. His use of commas seems odd to twenty-first-century eyes and, on occasion, these have been omitted. The crossed-out words and corrections are retained, together with his early nineteenth-century spelling, the occasional spelling errors in both English and French, and the erratic capitalisation. Although the diarist clearly had a good grasp of French, in most cases he omitted the accents and when he did include them they were often wrong. These have been reproduced as in the original.

On the whole his handwriting is reasonably clear, but where a word or phrase proved impossible to decipher this is indicated by dashes ----. Where there is some doubt about a word, this is made clear by an interrogation mark in square brackets: [?].

The references in the footnotes to the diary are given in abbreviated form and the full bibliographical details can be found in the Bibliography. Extensive use has been made of *Galignani's new Paris guide*. This publication, which appeared at regular intervals throughout the nineteenth century, was clearly the main guide of choice. It was packed with detailed information on any and every issue which a traveller, or even long-term foreign resident, in Paris might raise – and more besides. It is therefore invaluable as a source of information on Paris of the 1830s. Although thick and of some weight, the small dimensions of the volume rendered it “pocket sized”, especially for the capacious pockets of coats worn by men at the time.

The other contemporary work drawn on extensively is Robert Hooper's *Lexicon medicum; or, medical dictionary* of 1831. This work gives invaluable descriptions and explanations of disease conditions and treatments of the period.