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CLINICAL NOTES

OR

UTERINE SURGERY.

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE

MANAGEMENT OF THE STERILE CONDITION.

By J. MARION SIMS, A.B., M.D.

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TO

SIR JOSEPH F. OLLIFFE, M.D.,

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FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (LOND.); PHYSICIAN TO HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY
AT PARIS; OFFICER OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR, ETC. ETC.

MY DEAR SIR JOSEPH,

When I came to Europe, now more than three years ago, I had no idea of remaining here permanently. But I found in you a warm and generous friend, whose wise counsels and noble liberality elevated me at once into a most favorable position. It was principally through your influence that I was able to reach the highest circles of practice. Without you my sojourn here would have been temporary and fruitless.

Let me assure you, my dear Sir Joseph, that it is not only to you, as a learned and accomplished Physician, whose great talents and attainments have placed him so deservedly in the foremost ranks of his Profession; but it is also to you as a true man of noble impulses and generous nature; it is to you as a Friend, when I most needed a cheering comforting word, that I now come with this Volume, and beg you to accept it simply as a token of Gratitude for the many acts of kindness and friendship which you have so lavishly bestowed upon me.

J. MARION SIMS.



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PREFACE.

IN 1862, I voluntarily left my own country, on account of its political troubles. Our unfortunate civil war continued much longer than any of us, North or South, anticipated. In consequence of this my residence abroad was prolonged far beyond my original intention. I therefore had time to look over my note-books, and to cull such facts as illustrate the method of treating Uterine Disease at the Woman's Hospital. These facts are strung together in the form of these "Notes."

Having an innate horror of writing, I have not tried to make a book; on the contrary, I have simply related in detail my various operations, and given the history of cases in which circumstances led me to adopt a modified procedure, or for which I have devised new forms of instruments.

A clinical report of this sort very naturally divides itself into groups of cases which may be made illustrative of the principles of practice.

In my own country my contributions have generally been received with kindness; and although I have reason to hope that they will have a friendly reception here, still, as I make no literary pretensions, it is with the greatest diffidence that I appear as an author on this side of the Atlantic.

As its title indicates, this collection of "Clinical Notes" lays no claim whatever to the character of a systematic work. It is simply a voice from the Woman's Hospital, which, in all

probability, would never have been heard if I had remained at home. I wish most sincerely that I could have produced something more worthy of the position so long held by me in that noble Charity; for to this I owe all that I know practically of the subjects herein treated.

In looking over this volume, it would seem that I owe an apology to, and must claim the indulgence of, my brethren for three things:—

1st. A clinical review of personal experience, taken from note-books, as this has been, must almost of necessity be written in the first person.

2nd. It may be necessary to excuse to my senior readers the minuteness of detail in which I have sometimes indulged; but, at the same time, I must plead the necessity of such minuteness for the guidance of my younger brethren, for whom principally these pages were penned.

3rd. The illustrations are not all as good as I would have had them. Most of them are mere diagrams made by myself. For any inaccuracies I alone am responsible; for any artistic value that they may possess, the credit is wholly due to Léveillé, Lackerbauer, and Vien, of Paris; and to Mr. Orrin Smith, of London.

A word of explanation on another point. It will be seen that I have not touched upon the accidents of parturition, such as fistulæ of the bladder, rectum, and vagina, lacerated perineum, &c. It is only just to myself to say that I have ignored these for the present, because I hope, if time and circumstances permit, to prepare, at no distant day, a fully illustrated monograph on these subjects. To have done them ample justice here would have interfered, in some sort, with the plan, and augmented very considerably the size of this volume.

In conclusion I beg leave to say that I am under special obligations to Dr. Thos. D. Pratt for timely aid; and I take this occasion to return my sincere thanks to my friend, Mr. Ernest Hart, for useful suggestions and valuable assistance rendered as these pages were passing through the press.

LONDON: 1, BOLTON ROW, MAY FAIR,
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