





W. B. SAUNDERS

CLINICAL  
LECTURES



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CLINICAL LECTURES

ON

SURGERY,

DELIVERED AT ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

BY

SIR BENJAMIN C. BRODIE, BART., V.P.R.S.,

SERJEANT-SURGEON TO THE QUEEN;  
SURGEON IN ORDINARY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT;  
ETC. ETC. ETC.

*B. Brodie*



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## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE stands, confessedly, at the present time, at the head of the Surgical Profession of Great Britain. He holds the highest surgical appointment, that of Serjeant-Surgeon to the Queen, a station which he also occupied under the two preceding sovereigns. He has enjoyed for a long period an extensive practice, and his vast experience with his sound judgment and highly cultivated mind, renders his opinions of the highest authority.

His clinical lectures have always been exceedingly popular, and deservedly so, from their eminently practical character, the clearness of the author's language, and the plain common sense which they display. They are, however, almost entirely unavailable for reference, being scattered in the pages of various periodicals extending through a considerable number of years. Believing, that if brought together, they would constitute a body of doctrine highly instructive to the student, and useful to the surgeon as a practical guide, it was determined to collect them and issue them in the Library department of the Medical News. The eagerness with which the Numbers containing these lectures have been sought for, and the expressions of approval received from numerous correspondents fully confirm the correctness of the editor's convictions.

But little attempt has been made at arrangement in this volume, as it must necessarily have been imperfect from the manner in which the lectures were delivered,—most of them having been given in distinct series, with frequent references to those of the same course, and their order could

not, therefore, have been changed without breaking up their connection and altering the language,—a liberty the editor conceived to be unjustifiable. Any inconvenience which this want of arrangement might occasion is obviated by the copious index which is appended.

Should sufficient materials be obtained, another volume may hereafter be added so as to complete the works of the distinguished author.

PHILADELPHIA,  
March, 1846.

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# LECTURES ON SURGERY,

DELIVERED AT

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL,

BY SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE, BART., F.R.S., &c.

*B. Brodie*

## LECTURE I.

### INTRODUCTORY DISCOURSE.

GENTLEMEN.—A large proportion of those whom I now address are assembled for the first time, for the purpose of pursuing their studies in the Medical School of this Hospital; and their feelings on this occasion are not unknown to me; for, to a great extent at least, they must be such as I myself experienced, when long ago I was situated as they are at the present moment. Transplanted, perhaps, from some small community into this great city; the largest, the most populous, the richest that ever flourished; jostled in crowded streets; surrounded by palaces; where the high-born and the wealthy; where the most eminent statesmen; the most distinguished in literature, in sciences, and arts, and in every other human pursuit, are, as it were, fused into one mass to make the London world: contemplating the novel scene around you, but being not yet identified with it; it cannot be otherwise than that a sense of loneliness should come upon you in the intervals of excitement; that you should say, "What am I in the midst of so much bustle, activity, and splendour? who will be at the pains to watch the course of a medical student? who will know whether I am diligent or idle, or bear testimony in after-years to the correctness or irregularity of my conduct during this brief period of my life?"

But let not your inexperience lead you into so great an error. Even now, when you believe that no one heeds you, many eyes are upon you. Whether you are diligent in your studies; striving to the utmost to obtain a knowledge of your profession; honourable in your dealings with others; conducting yourselves as gentlemen; or whether you are idle and inattentive; offensive in your manners; coarse and careless in your general demeanour; wasting the precious hours, which should be devoted to study, in frivolous