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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

(TO THE FIFTH EDITION.)

In presenting this volume to the public, the editor believes that he can justly claim for it that it fills a place in medical literature now entirely unoccupied.

Its chief purpose is to set forth the *medical* aspects of Surgery. While there are abundant treatises on Operative, Mechanical and Minor Surgery, there is none which aims to collect in one book the *Therapeutics* of Surgery in the stricter sense of the word, to gather the formulæ of the most distinguished surgeons, to systematize their therapeutical directions, and to set forth their specific treatment of surgical diseases and injuries.

This was the aim of the talented author of the present work, who, however, was called from his labors before he had completed them. The undertaking has been carried out in the spirit, and to a great extent upon the plan, which he had projected. In this the editor has received aid from several professional gentlemen more intimately conversant than himself with surgical specialties; to them he returns his earnest thanks. Through their assistance he can confidently promise that the work represents the most recent practice and most modern teachings of the leaders of surgery of the present day of all countries.

The book is not altogether a compilation from printed sources. It has, indeed, been the object of the editor to collate from monographs, articles in journals and systematic treatises the published matter pertaining to the subject; but he has also obtained, in various instances, from private sources and unpublished material the practice of a number of eminent teachers and practitioners; the *Résumés* are the result of a careful collation of many authorities; and the labor of selection

from the mass of material at hand has not been a light one. These features give the book a claim to being considerably more than a compilation, and will be found to enhance greatly its value as a practical hand-book of Surgical Therapeutics, designed to be of daily assistance to him whose business is to treat disease and repair injuries in the human body.

The work grew out of the author's "Modern Therapeutics," and is an amplification of the Surgical portion of that work. It is, therefore, in some sense, a companion volume to Napheys' "Modern Medical Therapeutics."

To forestall certain criticisms which may be made, it should be stated that it was no part of the author's plan to reconcile conflicting instructions as to treatment coming from sources of equal weight. It was deemed more consonant with the purpose of this volume to state fully and fairly such contradictory instructions, in order to prevent the reader attaching too much weight to one or another authority. Thus he will be taught a salutary distrust of mere authority, a greater independence of action, and a higher regard for the value of his own experience. All the received text-books of surgery are written by men earnestly advocating their own particular views. This is well, but it is equally well that there should also be a book in which these varying views are set forth without the effort to exalt one or depreciate another.

It may be added that while the object of this work is largely to give the exact prescriptions and minute directions of surgeons, it is not supposed that any reader will slavishly follow these, but only that they will serve as faithful portraiture of therapeutical practice, to be modified or adapted to the exigencies of individual cases.

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MODERN SURGICAL THERAPEUTICS.

I. THE THERAPEUTICS OF INFLAMMATION.

THE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATION.—*The Removal of Irritation—The Importance of Rest—Limiting the Supply of Blood to the Part—Cold Applications—Warm Immersion—The Use of Veratrum Viride.*

THE IMMEDIATE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATION.—*Constitutional and Local Treatment—The Asthenic and Irritative Types of Acute Inflammation; Chronic Inflammation—General Medical Treatment.*

RÉSUMÉ OF REMEDIES.—*Internal Remedies—Cold—Electricity—Friction—Heat—Lotions—Poultices—Venesection—Diet in Inflammation.*

THE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATION.

THE REMOVAL OF IRRITATION.

“The first duty of a surgeon in impending inflammation,” says the late Prof. N. R. SMITH, M. D., of Baltimore, in one of his lectures, ‘is to remove all sources of irritation.’ (*The Baltimore Medical Journal and Bulletin*, Jan., 1871.) These may be mechanical irritants, as some foreign body whose presence may be unsuspected by the patient, especially in the case of children. Leaden bullets and polished needles cause the least irritation of any classes of foreign bodies. Prof. SMITH, in his fifty years’ experience, never saw a case of tetanus caused by a needle. Other sources of irritation may be pressure, as in bed-sores, friction, as of broken bones, malformation, etc.

The irritant removed, the next duty of the surgeon is to place the