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SURGICAL PRINCIPLES

AND

MINOR SURGERY.

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TYING THE PRINCIPAL ARTERIES; A
SYLLABUS OF LECTURES ON
SURGERY, ETC., ETC.

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STUDENTS OF MEDICINE,
TO WHOM
THE FUTURE
OF HOMOEOPATHY,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
CHIRURGIC ART, IS ENTRUSTED. WITH
THE HOPE THAT MY LABORS MAY ASSIST THEM IN
THE PROSECUTION OF THEIR STUDIES,
THIS LITTLE MANUAL IS
DEDICATED AND
INSCRIBED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

When the last edition of an exceedingly defective book—Surgical Diseases—became exhausted, my publishers supposed that a new and improved one would be well received, and suggested the revision and re-writing of the work. The errors, inaccuracies, and crudities of the old edition, however, were soon found to be so numerous, that it was impossible to use to advantage any portion of the text, or even to follow the arrangement of the original work. As the work progressed, it was made apparent that to include accidents, and purely mechanical treatment of the morbid processes referred to, would greatly increase the size of the volume, and necessitate a very imperfect discussion of highly important conditions. It was decided, therefore, to complete that volume on a pathological and therapeutical plan, as far as the limits would permit, reserving purely traumatic conditions for a separate treatise. Inasmuch as the change in arrangement would leave something elementary and preparatory desirable, the present volume was prepared.

Considering the present volume, then, as the initial volume of a series on surgical topics, a scheme has been arranged with some reference to an ideal collegiate course of instruction, embracing four volumes, at least, if not five. That such a division of topics is not artificial, it is only necessary to consider the scope of each volume, and the demand the age makes upon our schools for medical education.

The *first year* of a student's life finds him without any

knowledge of the scope of medical study, entirely uninformed of the demands to be made upon him, and frequently unfamiliar with the language of the science or the art. The custom so long prevailing of opening the surgical course with the consideration of inflammation, a topic that cannot be understood without a comprehensive knowledge of the physiological processes of waste and repair, and the elements, at least, of surgical pathology, is unwise to a degree. Under the old methods of teaching this seems to be unavoidable, and now that better counsels prevail, and the necessity for medical reform is admitted on all hands, it is proper that the ground be carefully surveyed and an attempt made to inaugurate systematic methods. The first year of pupilage, therefore, in surgical instruction, should be purely elementary, include only such topics as are comparatively free from technicalities, and necessary to a proper understanding of what is to follow. This would include a discussion of the functions, amenities, and responsibilities of the surgeon, the elements of diagnosis and prognosis, the manufacture and application of the various dressings used in surgical practice, and the performance of minor operations, such as require no particular skill or extensive surgical knowledge. These being thoroughly mastered, the student will be prepared to proceed further.

The *second year* will find the student not only well informed in the elements of surgery, but it is supposed that his studies in other departments have taught him the leading facts in physiology, we are enabled to introduce him to a more scientific investigation, and will take up surgical pathology and therapeutics, as foreshadowed in the second volume of the series, *Surgical Therapeutics*. We here discuss the process and termination of inflammation, as well as

the various abnormalities, the method of production of neoplasms, as well as all conditions not purely traumatic, both of a general and local character.

In the *third year* the foundation is laid for the crowning duties of the surgeon's calling, by a study of traumatism in all of its varying phases, both primary and remote effects, methods and explanation of aenesthesia, and some consideration of the legal responsibility of surgical practitioners and other questions of medical jurisprudence connected with the practice of surgery.

The *fourth year*, the last of student's undergraduate life, is fittingly occupied with instruction in the application of the principles he has hitherto been taught, or operative surgery. The degree of proficiency now attained by the student, will be only limited by his own capacity for receiving, and his teacher for imparting knowledge; as far as mere principles are concerned, there should be little more to acquire, and the training received will admirably fit him to pursue his studies, post-graduate, with profit to himself to a far greater degree than could be attained by any other system or method of teaching.

To supply a text-book for each of these college years, has been my desire; the present volume being intended for the first year; the volume on *Therapeutics*, already before the profession, answering for the second, until a thorough revision can be had; a volume on *Surgical Emergencies*, now in press, for the third; and a volume of *Surgical Operations* will be prepared as a text-book for the last or fourth year.

The present volume will probably show that even in Minor Surgery there is a necessary connection with an enlightened system of therapeutics. There are unquestionably many omissions, particularly of topics that we have been

accustomed to look for in such publications. Fractures and dislocations, and in one instance (SARGENTS) a condensed account of gun-shot wounds has been introduced. The accomplished surgeon knows that none of these topics can be considered of a minor character, and no apology is offered for transferring them to a more suitable volume (*Emergencies*). The reader will note the absence of all allusion to cauteries, as a therapeutic agent, hypodermic injections, blisters, and the like. They have no place in our *armamentum chirurgie*, and require no notice at our hands. There will also be observed a material curtailment in the varieties of bandaging; all surgeons will bear witness that many of them are never used in actual practice, and are chiefly retained in some of our text-books as forming "exercises" for the student. I am of the opinion that the "exercising" had better be confined entirely to the necessary methods.

With these explanations I trust that this portion of my labors will meet the approval of my colleagues, and that students will find it a helpful guide to them in the pursuance of their studies.

J. G. G.

DETROIT, 1881.

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AND

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INTRODUCTION.

In the outset of the study of any science, it is essential that the student should have a correct knowledge of the terms and nomenclature; very often as a pre-requisite to success. Perhaps in the case of surgery the above may be modified, as the principles and practice of the art are continually undergoing changes, additions, and expurgations; in fact the whole subject, like many others in medical literature, while based upon fixed scientific principles, contains much that cannot, from its very nature, be considered truly scientific. Nevertheless, the boundaries of our study, and a correct understanding of our duties and prerogatives, can only be attained by a rational conception of the peculiar and distinctive technology. We may ask, then, in the very outset, what does "surgery" itself mean? Unquestionably, if we confine ourselves strictly to the etymology of the word, we would imbibe a false conception of the duties of the surgeon. As in anatomy, we find many words, which, having a definite etymology, in the course of time have been retained simply for convenience, and to avoid the confusion that would arise from frequent changes, we find