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PREFACE.

THE plan of this Work has been suggested by the Author's own needs, both as a Student and as a Medical Practitioner. Many Students must feel—during their attendance at Lectures, and while reading the larger Treatises upon Medicine—the necessity for condensation and classification of their work; and there are few Practitioners who do not like to have in brief compass the means of occasionally, and quickly, revising the whole field of Practical Medicine.

In complying, therefore, with the request of the Publishers to prepare a short *Medical Handbook*, as a companion to Caird and Cathcart's well-known *Surgical Handbook*, the Author has kept the wants of the Student and busy Practitioner in view, and has endeavoured to make the work as condensed and as practical as possible, the chief object having been to select such matter, and to arrange it in such a way, as was deemed best in relation to the *practical diagnosis* of disease.

The Classification of the diseases is entirely *clinical*, and it is hoped that the discussion of them in groups, with the consideration of the comparative diagnosis appended (when this appeared desirable) may prove helpful. The reasons for the method used are given on page 114, in connection with the diseases of the pulmonary organs.

In the preparation of the articles upon each disease, a certain obvious order has been followed; and Standard Works and Monographs have been freely consulted, when the Author has felt it necessary to confirm or amplify his

own experience. He begs to acknowledge his indebtedness to such works—so far as the mere enumeration of facts is concerned—and trusts that he has sufficiently acknowledged elsewhere any statement which appeared to him to be original in character.

In the *treatment* of disease a difficulty has been experienced in the selection of the newer remedies. As a rule, the Author has avoided recommending them on account of the existing uncertainty as to their real value. Many, in course of time, may prove to be trustworthy; but, meanwhile, awaiting this test, it has been thought wiser only to quote the well-established drugs. The Prescriptions appended in the last chapter are in general use. When they appear special in character, and the authority has been known, the name is given—in many cases, however, this has not been possible. A few are original.

The diseases of the Integumentary system have not been included, although a classification of the Skin Diseases has been inserted (p. 313). The Author believes that a good Skin-atlas is to be preferred, when a simple revisal of the subject is required.

R. S. A.

83 GREAT KING STREET,
EDINBURGH, *April*, 1893.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

IN this edition, the Author has adhered to the plan and objects of the Work as stated in the original preface. Although the advances made in bacteriology and pathology might suggest a different classification in some cases, yet the *clinical* arrangement has its advantage to the practical physician, and this has been maintained. The various sections have all been carefully revised and brought up to date, yet the work has been kept within moderate compass, chiefly by re-writing paragraphs in briefer style, and by deleting matter not now accepted, or deemed of less importance. Some useful and important details have been introduced in the form of an Appendix; and in revising, the Author has carefully kept the wants of the student and busy practitioner in view, and made the *diagnosis* of disease the chief feature of the Handbook.

R. S. A.

74 GREAT KING STREET,
EDINBURGH, *April*, 1899.

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