

PREFACE.

THE rapid and progressive advances in the science and art of Gynecology during the past dozen years have created an almost constant necessity for the revision of works on this subject. For this reason, and for the purpose of presenting gynecological surgery and treatment as it is practised in America, the country of its birth and of its most substantial improvements and progress, the present text-book has been prepared by American authors, all of whom are teachers of this branch of surgery in the leading medical schools and hospitals. It is thoroughly practical in its teachings, and is intended, as its title implies, to be a working text-book for physicians and students. Many of the most important subjects are considered from an entirely new standpoint, and are grouped together in a manner somewhat foreign to the accepted custom. Several new chapters have been added, such as Technique and After-treatment, it being hoped that by this presentation of the subject the student might the more readily be aided in an intelligent understanding of their details. Illustrations have been depended upon in great measure to demonstrate and explain the anatomy of the parts considered—a method of dealing with the subject which has relieved the text of much irrelevant and cumbersome matter.

The work embodies as nearly as possible the combined opinions of all the authors, although it is to be understood that each individual author must be free from absolute responsibility for any particular statement: especially is this so for the reason that the Editor has endeavored by adding to and subtracting from the text to render it as uniform in its statements as possible.

All extraneous matter and discussions have been carefully excluded, and the attempt has been made to allow nothing unnecessary to cumber the text, which is brought fully up to date at every point.

The subject-matter of this work has been enforced by illustrations wherever opportunity presented. A large proportion of these illustrations are original, and are mostly reproduced from photographs or from fresh specimens. A considerable number of woodcuts and several half-tone and colored plates have been taken from other authors, and are credited to them in the List of Illustrations.

The Editor desires to thank Dr. Frank W. Talley for his careful revision of the proof-sheets, for his preparation of the Index, and for his valuable aid in other ways, and to express appreciation of the efficient and ever-ready co-operation of Mr. W. B. Saunders.

J. M. BALDY.

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