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CLINICAL LECTURES

ON

THE DISEASES

OF

WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

BY

GUNNING S. BEDFORD, A.M., M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS, THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND  
CLINICAL MIDWIFERY, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

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"Medicus curat morbos, natura sanat."—HIPPOCRATES.

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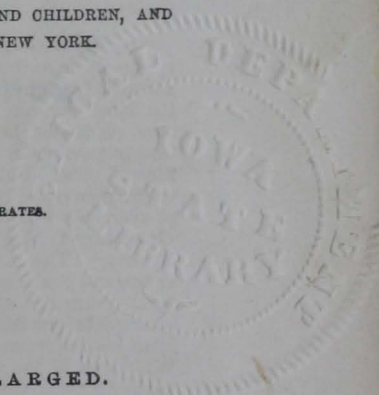
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NEW YORK:

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1856.





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TO  
THE ALUMNI  
OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK,  
THESE LECTURES  
Are affectionately Dedicated,  
BY THEIR FRIEND  
THE AUTHOR.



THE ALBUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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## P R E F A C E.

ANXIOUS to do all in my power to increase the facilities for the practical study of the diseases incident to women and children in connection with the chair, which I have the honor to occupy in the University of New York, I established for this purpose, in October, 1850, an *Obstetric Clinic* which, from that period to the present time, has been in constant and successful operation; and which, with the exception of six weeks, is held on every Monday throughout the year. There have been presented to my classes in the University, from October, 1850, to this date, over *eight thousand* cases of disease, and the present volume contains but an epitome, as it were, of the various maladies peculiar to women and children, which have been discussed and treated in the clinic. I have been induced to publish these lectures in this form from the repeated solicitations of my pupils and other friends; and I think it due to myself to say, that I claim for the lectures nothing more than what they really are—running commentaries upon disease as I understand it. There is no system in the order of these lectures, for the very principle on which they are delivered necessarily precludes the possibility of systematic arrangement. They have been reported by competent gentlemen, just as they were delivered at the time—in one word, they are a faithful representation of what occurs in the clinic. Objection, perhaps, may be made to the colloquial style of the lectures; but I preferred that the clinic should be represented



as it really is, without any attempt to disguise what it professes to be, viz. : a school for the practical study of the diseases peculiar to women and children.

The lectures have been reported by Drs. Wm. Palmer Woodcock, H. C. Cooper, and Thomas A. Gregory, and most of them have been published in the *American Lancet*. I beg leave to return my thanks to these gentlemen for the fidelity with which they have performed their office.

With these remarks, I submit this volume to my professional brethren, and happy shall I be if it should meet with their approbation.

G. S. BEDFORD.

NEW YORK, 66 FIFTH AVENUE, June 1st, 1855.



## P R E F A C E

### TO THE SECOND EDITION.

MY Publishers having informed me that it is necessary to put to press a second edition of the "*Clinical Lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children*," it would be affectation in me not to express the pleasure I derive from the rapid sale of the work, which, it must be admitted, is not only novel in its general arrangement, but which constitutes a very distinct departure from the systematic treatises heretofore presented to the practitioner and student of medicine. I was anxious that the Lectures should go forth to the profession without any concealment as to the circumstances under which they were delivered. The diseases discussed are, as it were, so many types of what the physician is constantly called upon to treat in his daily rounds of duty, and, therefore, their character is essentially practical. To say that the first edition has been exhausted in a period of three months, is at once an acknowledgment of the kind appreciation of my professional brethren. But I should be wanting in candor if I did not add that, in my opinion, the success of the work has been materially aided by the flattering criticisms of my brethren of the medical press. To those gentlemen who have so generally and spontaneously, in language of kindness, spoken of my work, I beg leave most cordially to return my thanks. I feel much gratified with their flattering commendations.

It will be seen that I have added to the present edition *Formulae of Remedies*, which, I trust, will prove serviceable.

October 1, 1855.



## P R E F A C E

### TO THE THIRD EDITION.

I FEEL much pleasure in being again thus early called upon to express my grateful acknowledgments to the profession for the kind favor which they have extended to my work. The present edition has been carefully revised, and more than forty pages of new matter added.

In the Appendix, at the end of the volume, are recorded the results of treatment in many of the more interesting cases which have been discussed in the Clinic; this, I hope, will prove an acceptable feature. It will also be seen that a carefully-prepared alphabetical table, embracing every topic treated of in the volume, will enable the reader at once to refer to any special subject. In conclusion, I think it but justice to return thanks to my publishers for the efficient manner in which they have performed their part of the labor, which is altogether worthy of their respectable and old-established house.

March 1, 1856.



## PREFACE

### TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

THAT a fourth edition of the "*Clinical Lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children*" should be demanded in a period of fifteen months from their first publication, is not only gratifying to me, but presents the most positive evidence that my labors to open an untried avenue for the practical study of disease have been fully endorsed by my professional brethren. This endorsement, which I cannot too highly appreciate, is an ample compensation for whatever toil and anxiety I may have experienced in establishing a Clinic for the practical observation of the *diseases incident to women and children*. I may be permitted to reiterate my grateful acknowledgments to the medical press, both at home and abroad, for their courteous criticisms, and the kind favor extended to my work. The present edition has been carefully revised, and will, I trust, continue to secure the approbation of the profession.

SEPTEMBER, 1856.







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