

P R E F A C E.

My aim in writing this book has been to place in the hands of the many friends who have from time to time visited me and followed my work, a convenient summary of the various gynecological operations I have found best in my own practice. It is far from my purpose to present a digest of the literature of the subject, or even to describe all the important operations; if I had set out to do this, the book would never have been written in the midst of the pressing practical duties of my work.

Gynecology is so young a science, and many of its surgical procedures are as yet so incompletely developed, that I think the best service a gynecologist can render his specialty is to record accurately his own experiences. Scientific accuracy is especially necessary in gynecology, in which the discovery of anesthesia and the perfection of an aseptic technique have rendered operations safe which a few years ago would have been necessarily fatal. It is comparatively easy now to open the abdomen; it is no easier than it ever was to combat the causes of disease. This fact is emphasized not only by the number and variety of operations proposed, but also by a healthy tendency toward conservatism. Although I have spent several years in the preparation of my book, so rapid have been the changes in the gynecological field that I have found it necessary to rewrite some of the chapters two and even three times.

I have few claims to originality to urge, and these are, I think, clearly set forth in the text. I should further explain that I have taken the liberty afforded by the more general scope of the work of often omitting references where it would have consumed time to search for them. My own special researches are connected with the operation for suspension of the uterus, and with the investigation of vesical and ureteral diseases. In the classification of tumors of the bladder, I have largely used the work of Clado.

I have many acknowledgments to make and many kind friends to thank for their aid throughout.

First of all, I want to express my indebtedness to Dr. Mary Augusta Scott, to whose constant kindly stimulus and friendly help more than to any one else the work owes its existence. Dr. Scott has arranged, revised, and edited the book.

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The illustrations have all been made by Mr. Max Brödel and Mr. H. Becker. I am particularly indebted to Mr. Brödel for his unflagging interest and for the great zeal with which he has thrown himself into the work from the beginning. His pictures speak for themselves. Mr. A. S. Murray has been associated with my work for the past five years and has furnished me with over sixteen hundred photographs. The illustrations have been drawn partly from these photographs, and partly from my own sketches made on the spot, at operations or immediately afterwards. Mr. Murray has also devised various original ways of photographing patients on the operating table, among them vertical photography.

Finally, many thanks are due to Miss Jennie Gill, my efficient secretary, for setting up the manuscript.

HOWARD A. KELLY.

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