

PREFACE.

IN the preparation of this work the editors have been continually impressed with the intimate relationship which exists between gynecology and abdominal surgery. Our associates, competitors, and generous critics, the general surgeons, will not deny that the great advances made in the gynecologic field have constituted the very backbone and the marrow of the abdominal surgery of today, and that *pari passu* with the labors of the gynecologists have gone the developments of the surgery of the abdomen at large. These volumes embracing both subjects are living witnesses of the unity of gynecology and abdominal surgery in the practical field, which it is our pleasure to proclaim, as we thus once more assert the unity of our art and the fraternity of those who practise it.

In planning our work the usual classification of the hand-books has been set aside, in order to substitute one of greater practical value to the general practitioner, to the investigator, and to the surgeon.

A considerable section is devoted to medical gynecology, to meet the needs of the general practitioner, who will find the information he requires concentrated in one section, without being under the necessity of searching here and there throughout both volumes.

Certain obstetric or gynecologic-obstetric subjects have been included in our list, such as the puerperal injuries and infections, the treatment of incomplete abortion, ectopic pregnancy, and the Cesarean operations. It is believed that this will prove not only of practical value to the physician, but will give the general surgeon practising abdominal surgery without an obstetric training a broader and fuller view of the subject.

Separate chapters have been devoted to the systematic consideration of the bacteriology and the pathology of the diseases of women. Those wishing to investigate the scientific basis of gynecology will find it suitably set forth in these sections. We believe that no other monograph on pathology as complete as this has as yet appeared in the English language.

Other special chapters have also been written upon subjects usually found only in monographs; such as, operations during pregnancy, operations before puberty, conservative operations upon the uterine appendages, and the complications of operations.

Surgical gynecology and abdominal surgery proper have been broadly and liberally dealt with. We have naturally devoted our especial attention to modern surgical technic, and have been at pains to provide that the operations themselves should be profusely illustrated with fresh, accurate, and graphic drawings.

To prevent the undue expansion of our work, space has been spared by omitting elementary matters found in every text-book.

The historical development of gynecology and abdominal surgery has been carefully treated, showing the prominent part played by American surgeons in these fields.

Concerning the relative advantages of the abdominal and the vaginal route for the performance of various operations there are still decided differences of opinion. Here we have presented the claims of the two schools from the affirmative standpoint, by selecting tried advocates to present each side.

The illustrations have been done by, or under the supervision of, Mr. Hermann Becker, who has devoted more than four years to his work; almost all the drawings are from his hand; some have been made by Mr. Max Brödel, and others.

Three of our collaborators, Drs. Alexander J. C. Skene, Wm. R. Pryor, and Fernand Henrotin, have died during the preparation of this work. We take pleasure in presenting to the profession their last contributions to gynecology.

The work is the first in which the attempt has been made to cover both the fields of gynecology and of abdominal surgery. Its subject-matter has been further broadened by the consideration of medical gynecology, of various practical subjects usually dealt with only in monographs, and also the gynecologic-obstetric field. We hope that this will make our work unique in its presentation and in its claims upon the consideration of the profession.

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