

P R E F A C E .

WHAT a transformation two generations have witnessed in the field of gynecology! From modest beginnings, as a sort of a minor specialty coupled with diseases of children and often professed by general practitioners with no special training, it has grown to the dignity of a major surgical specialty, so extensive that many gynecologists of to-day claim the entire field of abdominal surgery as their proper domain by right of discovery and conquest. This period of surgical evolution is now at last clearly at an end and I deem it a fitting time to review once more, from our new and advanced standpoint, the relationship of our specialty to the field of general practice.

To my mind the evolution of scientific medicine must ever run this course: The general practitioner yields up to a little group of investigators that portion of his territory which is most obscure and difficult, in which he has made the least progress; the field is diligently cultivated and a specialty is formed. Then in time the specialist so simplifies the etiology, the diagnosis, and the treatment, that he is able to hand back a part at least to the general practitioner, with whom he continues in relations of harmony and sympathy, so that both work conjointly to a common end, namely, the extinction of disease and the amelioration of its ravages. It will be my effort in the following pages to review my special field, in an endeavor to return to the general practitioner that portion of it which he ought to recover by right of his prior lien.

Two subjects stand out preëminently as the field of the practitioner of medicine, namely, hygiene and prophylaxis. He also sees and is often perplexed by the sequelæ of the various gynecological operations. A variety of minor operations he must often be prepared to do, notably, suture of the recently torn perineum, dilatation and curettage of the uterus, etc. Largely in his hands also lies the fate of the great army of cancer patients, who to-day apply to the specialist, as a rule, too late for relief.

I have often heard the cry *ne sutor ultra crepidam*, during the twenty-five years I have been practising medicine, but it has not seemed to me to be trespassing too far on other fields to take up such every-day topics as hysteria and its allies, headache, backache, and constipation.

I am indebted to the kind coöperation of my friend and colleague Dr. Lewellys F. Barker for the chapter on neurasthenia, hysteria, and psychas-

thenia. This chapter offers the first explicit and detailed statement which Professor Barker has as yet made touching his methods of dealing with this class of cases. It constitutes a most difficult branch of therapeutics with which his name is associated as a pioneer, and I am thankful to have this definite expression of ideas from such an authority upon a subject in regard to which the gynecologist so often stands in need of the advice of an expert neurologist. Dr. Lilian Welsh, Professor of Physiology in the Woman's College of Baltimore, and Dr. Mary Sherwood, Director of the Gymnasium at the Bryn Mawr School, have written the chapter on the hygiene of the growing girl, dealing with the most fundamental question of our work. My old friend Dr. Walter L. Burrage has written the chapter on gonorrhoea as well as that on fibroid tumors of the uterus. Dr. Prince A. Morrow, our great American authority on venereal disease, has supplied that on syphilis; and abortion comes from the pen of Dr. Edward J. Ill. The section on movable kidney is by Dr. F. W. Griffith; enteroptosis is by Dr. Thomas R. Brown and masturbation by Dr. R. L. Dickinson.

The book has been fostered from its incipiency by my friend and co-laborer, Dr. Caroline Latimer, without whose aid it could not have been written. She has nursed it throughout with unwonted solicitude and after revision and correction sent it forth into the world to battle for a living.

I am indebted for help and suggestion to Dr. W. L. Burrage and Dr. C. F. Burnam through a large part of the book; to Dr. T. R. Brown in the chapter on constipation, headache, insomnia, and obesity; to Dr. G. W. Dobbin, Dr. Richard Norris, and Dr. J. M. Slemmons in the chapter on injuries and ailments after labor. Dr. W. S. Baer has given me valuable advice concerning the treatment of backache, in which chapter I draw special attention to sacroiliac disease, and Dr. G. L. Hunner has assisted me in revising the chapter on cancer.

The illustrations, one hundred and sixty-three in number, have almost all been made by Messrs. M. Brödel and A. Horn, my longtime faithful coadjutors. In many of them we have worked on comparatively new lines, securing a more realistic and greater artistic effect in certain cases where it was formerly necessary to rely solely upon diagrammatic representation. Such illustrations are line drawings of examinations, postures, methods of treatment, and others which will be readily recognized from their generic resemblance.

HOWARD A. KELLY.

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