

PREFACE.

It is nearly a generation since Alfred Poussin wrote in his "Tumeurs de la Vessie" (1884) that the three principal modes for investigation of the lower urinary tract were:

- (a) by hypogastric palpation and rectal touch;
- (b) by vesical catheterization;
- (c) by digital exploration of the bladder.

And now, after only three decades, all is changed, and the cystoscope has literally illuminated the entire field of urinary pathology, creating a vigorous specialty out of an incoördinate mass of imperfect clinical observations and occasional operative procedures.

My own labors in this field began in the Kensington Hospital, Philadelphia. I was helped by the personal kindness of Professor Rudolph Virchow, who gave me the run of the dead house in the Charité at Berlin, where I did experimental work in catheterizing by Pawlik's method, afterwards visiting Pawlik's clinic with some colleagues in 1889 and witnessing his skillful efforts to slip a delicate metal catheter up to the ureter in the water-distended bladder. In 1893 the whole subject advanced at once from obscurity into the clarity of daylight when it suddenly crossed my mind to look into the air-distended bladder through an open cystoscope, with the patient in the knee-breast position, illuminating the field with a light reflected by an ordinary head-mirror. I could thus easily see and touch and treat all parts of the bladder and pass delicate catheters into both ureters. It was the egg of Columbus and the problem was solved in a moment. One had but to look through the Grunenfeld tube, out of which the oblique window had fallen, to see a whole new realm of pathology open to view, brought suddenly from darkness into the light of day. Since then urology has taken enormous strides and though few seem to be as yet masters of the subject, it may fairly be claimed that the field is nearly worked over and is approaching the status of a completed specialty.

The present work has been undertaken and carried out, in conjunction with my constant associate, Curtis F. Burnam, because no other work has been written which does more than squint at urology from the standpoint of the

female sex. We have frankly taken this aspect of the subject as our fundamental position and have done our squinting in the direction of urological problems in the male.

Mr. Max Broedel, so many years my valued friend and co-worker, has put some eight years of his best work into the numerous illustrations which do so much to elucidate the text.

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