

## PREFACE

---

THE first edition of *Lectures on "The Acute Abdomen"* having become exhausted some months ago, I was requested by the publishers to write a second edition, with such alterations and additions as might seem advisable. The continued advance of our knowledge of the acute conditions which may arise in the abdomen has necessitated an increase in size of the volume, whilst it has appeared desirable to add the accounts of many cases and illustrations with the view of more thoroughly elucidating the subject. So many acute abdominal diseases have proved curable by operation, when it is performed early, that I hope my readers will not consider the subject unduly magnified considering its importance in modern practice. The treatment of the acute abdomen (including that of lesions the result of traumatism) demands an acquaintance with the surgical part of the subject which cannot always be obtained in text-books on surgery. In addition, it may be added that in order to be of general application the methods described should be as simple as possible, so that no practitioner need fear to make an attempt to save a threatened life because he has not some particular clamp, bobbin or brand of catgut in his possession. Silk is still recommended, because it is strong and can be trusted. Moreover, it is easily sterilised by boiling, even in a cottage.

The principal additions to the present volume, which is divided into sections, are those on the planning of abdominal incisions and injuries to the abdomen, external and internal, including most of the subject-matter of the Oration given before the Medical Society of London in 1910. There is a special section on the after effects of abdominal injuries. An endeavour has been made to differentiate clinically some