

PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION

This book, of which five previous editions have appeared, was the outcome of a strong belief which Mr. Jacobson held for many years, that a work on operative surgery which aimed at being more comprehensive in scope and fuller in detail than those already published, would be of service to many who had recently been appointed to hospital staffs, and to those who were working for the higher examinations. For these this book is specially intended, and, as the authors have pointed out here and there, some of the recommendations made apply to those who have not a well-appointed hospital staff at their back.

Time and space set a limit to the operations which can be described. Therefore preference is given to those we have found most useful.

In the special departments of surgery such as those of the ear and throat, gynaecology and orthopaedics, only the important and well-established operations which a general surgeon can safely perform are considered here, and no attempt is made to compete with treatises on these special subjects.

In this edition we have endeavoured to save space and avoid repetition by devoting special chapters to "the examination, preparation and after-treatment of the patient."

The whole book has been carefully revised and a great deal has been entirely rewritten; this applies especially to the sections on Abdominal Surgery, and the chapters on the Surgery of the Blood-Vessels, and of the Brain, Ear, Nose and Throat.

We are well aware that the book will, from time to time, require much alteration. This is unavoidable in a subject so progressive and changeful as modern surgery; it is especially unavoidable when a writer desires to do full justice to the work done by the crowd of labourers engaged in the same field at the present time. Many of the methods suggested in these pages will, later on, be rejected, but it is only by submitting novelties and suggestions to the one true test, that of time, that we shall know how many are really worthy to survive. If this book aids in bringing about the application of this test, it will not have failed, altogether, in its purpose.

The plan of the book, with which some judges found fault, remains unchanged. Mr. Jacobson adopted the division by regions deliberately, desiring that those for whom the book is intended should study the anatomy of each region at the same time as the account of the operations. In this edition it has been found convenient to insert the section on the Leg in the first volume, so that the increasing claims of abdominal surgery could be adequately met in the second volume.

To our great regret Mr. Jacobson has been unable to continue the laborious and brilliant work which built up this book and maintained

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