

INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION

WHEN the publishers sent me a copy of Professor Vulpinus's monograph, asking me to find someone to translate it into English, it was the first time that I had enjoyed the pleasure of turning over its pages. The feature that most impressed me on this first perusal was the wealth of clinical observation vividly recorded in the photographic illustrations. I felt that on this ground alone the book was one that claimed a wide circulation among medical readers in English-speaking countries. A closer study of the book made me feel that a good English translation was urgently called for. Of the ever-widening horizon of medicine, there is no part that has of late extended more strikingly than that occupied by infantile paralysis.

The broad and scholarly spirit in which the author has conceived and performed his task renders the work almost as interesting to the physician as it is to the surgeon. Indeed, the present translation cannot fail to confer a signal benefit on the profession by doing much to explain to physicians the aims of the surgeon in his efforts to diminish the tendency to deformity in the earlier, and to overcome or mitigate established deformity and disability in the later, period of this disease.

To the surgeon the full and critical consideration given to the various instrumental and operative measures as applied at the present day cannot fail to be of great service, both absolutely and as it compares with works relating to the same subject already published in the English language. The historical chapter and those which deal with the pathology and ætiology of the disease may make us pause and ask whether the harsh mercies of surgery may not some day be replaced by the gentler remedies of medicine; that, when the ætiology of the disease is thoroughly known.