

## PREFACE

The literature on the prostate has in the past been comparatively meagre. Indeed, it is only within very recent years that serious attention has been given to this subject. Its importance, to be sure, has long been recognized. Prostatic hypertrophy is so common in all countries and among all classes, and the sufferings caused by its consequences are so extremely grave, the wonder is that its treatment should have been dismissed, even by the greatest authorities, in but a few pages. It is only within the past decade that anything really worth while has been added to the contribution made by Sir Henry Thompson twenty-five years ago.

The present treatise, whatever its limitations and defects, possesses at least the merit of having to a great extent grown out of the author's own observations and experiences. Typical cases, accompanied by illustrative plates, are introduced to set forth the various phases of prostatic enlargement. For the busy, general practitioner, the important points in diagnosis and treatment are presented simply and with definiteness of detail, while for the surgeon the technic is described which the author has found most satisfactory in his own practice.

That there are limitations and defects in his presentation and discussion of the various subjects involved, the author clearly recognizes and is first to admit; but in the hope that the essentials of what he has attempted may be found useful, he has yielded to the advice of those in whose judgment he has confidence, and ventures to give this result of his work a modest publication.

W. J. MACDONALD.

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