

PREFACE.

This volume does not aim at being in any way comprehensive, but rather to form a useful guide to those taking up Radiology for the first time; to help them to understand the various appliances and the methods of using them, and to take them along the first steps in the application of the X-rays to the investigation and treatment of disease.

A considerable amount of space has been devoted to the study of the X-ray tube, even to the risk of tedious repetition at times. Though modern tubes are a great improvement on the best to be had only a few years ago, this knowledge is just as important as ever it was if the best results are to be secured, and only by working with X-ray tubes for many weeks, or perhaps months, can that confidence be secured that does so much to make satisfactory results the rule rather than the exception.

In the chapters dealing with the thorax, the digestive, and the urinary systems, only such conditions as are most commonly met with are referred to, and even these but briefly, but it should be enough to prepare the student to approach larger works with a proper appreciation of what is before him.

The volume concludes with a chapter on X-ray therapeutics. This has been prepared with great care but nevertheless is put forward with not a little diffidence, even anxiety. The practice of X-ray therapeutics is not without risk, both to the patient and to the radiologist, but if the rules and methods here given are carefully followed, the results ought to be both safe and satisfactory.