

PREFACE

THIS book has been published at the request of students and fellow practitioners. An intimate association with students and physicians and a careful study of their wants have convinced me that a work on Obstetrics should be practical in the broadest sense of the word.

I recognize the fact that students have learned anatomy and physiology before they commence the study of obstetrics, and I have therefore given only a summary of facts anatomical and physiological which are important from an obstetrical standpoint. While the brief chapters on anatomy and physiology are intended especially for students, the main portion has been written for both students and physicians.

In my endeavors to be practical I have adopted chiefly clinical methods. I desired to avoid the "lecture style" in writing; but I have to acknowledge that my dogmatic manners as a teacher, and a considerable amount of egoism, are evident in many parts. As an excuse for this, I shall follow Herman in quoting the words of Bacon: "The manner of the tradition and delivery of knowledge which is for the most part magistral and peremptory . . . in a sort as may be soonest believed and not easiliest examined . . . in compendious treatises for practise . . . is not to be disallowed."

By abbreviating certain chapters and abstaining from theorizing, I have been able to devote considerable space to the proper treatment of very important subjects without making a large book. The description of the management of normal labor has been made as nearly complete as possible, no detail, great or small, being overlooked. The importance of exact and correct knowl-