

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

I FEEL that I ought to give some explanation of the purpose of these lectures, since they go so much more fully into the details of disease and its treatment than has hitherto been attempted in books which have been written for nurses. It is possible that some will therefore question their usefulness, while others may go a step farther, and say, "Is it wise to tell nurses so much?" With the second of these two objections I am quite unable to agree; as regards the first, time alone can show.

No one who has taken part in the instruction of nurses can have failed to notice their desire for more information about the patients they tend than is to be obtained from their manuals. It is unreasonable to expect a nurse to be satisfied with the mere mechanical performance of her duties. If she is interested in her patients, she naturally wishes to learn something about the diseases from which they are suffering; the explanation of their symptoms, and the object of the treatment. Her own books are either silent on these points, or give