

PREFACE

THIS work comprises the book of the same name edited by the late Miss Honnor Morten, but in order to bring it up to date it has been necessary to rewrite the entire book. Much valuable information has been added, and the work has been illustrated.

In preparing this manual I have endeavoured to meet what I think is a genuine need. I have attempted to explain in popular language and in the shortest and most concise form the entire range of nursing, in order that the work may merit its title *A Complete System of Nursing*.

The many valuable text-books and works of reference in existence are more than the ordinary nurse requires, or can master, in the time at her disposal. Again, smaller nursing books deal only with one or more branches of nursing.

The main difficulty has been to compress into a small space the amount of material available, so that I have only been able to sketch in outline much that might have been elaborately described did the size of the book permit. It is obviously impossible to deal with anatomy and physiology: these subjects should be sought in appropriate text-books.

My aim has been to place before the nurse a short account of the different diseases—as without an elementary knowledge of such, intelligent nursing cannot be carried out—their prominent symptoms and chief points of distinction, their possible complication, the nursing attention required, and the treatment likely to be given by the physician and surgeon in order that suitable preparation may be made by the nurse. I have endeavoured to supply such information as will instruct the nurse how to carry out any, and every, nursing duty, and to meet the various emergencies that are likely to arise, but I wish most emphatically to point out that it is not intended to suggest that the nurse should act upon her own responsibility, prescribe or omit drugs, etc., or in any way alter or order treatment except under circumstances of extreme urgency.