

which the symptom might be expected to occur. Beyond such passing references to the affections which give rise to the symptoms under consideration, and their mention in the comparative tables to be found in a number of the articles, I have avoided the discussion of *diseases*, and have restricted the descriptions to the various *signs and symptoms* of disease. The consideration of the disease is left to the text-books of medicine, for which the present work is not intended as a substitute, but as a complement.

In dealing with obscure or complicated cases the observer may at times experience some difficulty in determining which of the sections of his medical treatises he should consult in search of light. A careful study of one or more of the prominent symptoms presented by the case, with a knowledge of the morbid processes which produce the symptoms, and of the diseases in which they are likely to occur, should serve to guide the observer in the further study of the case.

In the present volume I have attempted to place within reach of the reader, in an easily available form, the information necessary to attain the objects just mentioned. In order to facilitate reference to the different subjects, these are dealt with in alphabetical order, and not in anatomical or nosological grouping.

The descriptions of the various methods of examination are restricted to such procedures as may be fairly considered clinical methods, and I have refrained from presenting numerous alternative processes where sufficiently accurate results might be secured by the methods described.

Three of the articles have been written by colleagues, whose special experience in the respective subjects lends value to their contributions. These are 'Blood Examination,' by Dr. Thomas Houston, hæmatologist to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast; 'X-Ray Diagnosis,' by Dr. J. C. Rankin, physician in charge of the electrical department of that hospital; and 'Examination of the Sputum,' by Dr. J. E. MacIlwaine, medical registrar to the same hospital.