

PREFACE

THIS work on the Operative Surgery of the Head and Neck, the Thorax, and the Abdomen, differs in certain respects from the ordinary treatise on this subject. No attempt has been made to include an account of all or even the majority of the operative procedures which are performed in these regions, but rather to present in convenient form a description of those which are most frequently required in general surgical practice. A work which would cover the entire domain of the operative surgery of these regions would of necessity require the production of two or more large volumes, but instead of following the ordinary stereotyped plan, I decided to include in one volume an account of those operations which a general surgeon is most likely to be called upon to perform.

The idea of producing such a work originated in connection with the post-graduate courses of medical study in Trinity College, which have been largely attended by surgeons attached to Provincial Hospitals and County Infirmaries, also by officers of the Indian Medical Service, Royal Army Medical Corps, Navy Medical Department, and the Colonial Medical Service. On many occasions I have heard a wish expressed for a work of this kind, and it was with the hope that I might be able to meet such a want that I undertook to add still another to the already long list of treatises on this subject.

In the description of the various operations I have followed a definite plan, viz., to arrange the description in successive stages from the first incision up to the introduction of the sutures, as I believe such an arrangement will prove helpful in enabling those who are not constantly engaged in operative work to follow out the various stages without difficulty. In all cases I have described the operations as I perform them myself, and in certain cases where a choice lay between different methods I have selected that which I have found by experience to be the most satisfactory.

The illustrations, with one or two exceptions, are original, and have been prepared under my direct supervision. Many have been drawn from stereoscopic photographs, taken in the operation theatre. I have found this an excellent method for producing illustrations both accurate in the matter of detail and giving a clear representation of the requirements of modern surgical technique. The figures which are for the most part, if not altogether, anatomical have been prepared from special dissections made in the Surgical Department of Trinity College. As many of the figures represent successive stages in the more important operations, I have provided each with a short explanatory note, indicating the special points which the figure is meant to represent. In this way the study of the figures alone should prove to be helpful and instructive.