

P R E F A C E .

THIS book is a treatise on the application of differential diagnosis to all the main signs and symptoms of disease. It aims at being of practical utility to medical men whenever difficulty arises in deciding the precise cause of any particular symptom of which a patient may complain. It covers the whole ground of medicine, surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, dermatology, and neurology.

Whatever the disease from which a patient is suffering, the importance of diagnosing it as early as possible can hardly be over-rated. The present volume deals with diagnosis from a standpoint which is different from that of most text-books, having been written in response to requests for an *Index of Diagnosis* as a companion to the publishers' *Index of Treatment*, issued in 1907. The book is an index in the sense that its articles on the various symptoms are arranged in alphabetical order; at the same time it is a work upon differential diagnosis in that it discusses the methods of distinguishing between the various diseases in which each individual symptom may be observed. Whilst the body of the book thus deals with *symptoms*, the general index at the end gathers these together under the headings of the various *diseases* in which they occur.

The Editor lays particular stress upon the importance of using these two parts of the book together. Unless reference is made freely to the general index, the reader may miss a number of the places in which is discussed the diagnosis of the disease with which he has to deal; for while each *symptom* is considered but once, each *disease* is likely to come up for discussion under the heading of each of its more important symptoms.

The guiding principle throughout has been to suppose that a particular symptom attracts special notice in a given case, and that the diagnosis has to be established by differentiating between the various diseases to which this symptom may be due. One of many difficulties arising during the construction of the work was that of deciding where to draw the line as regards symptoms themselves. The exclusion of many borderline headings such as "Dullness at the base of one lung," "Inability to breathe through the nose," and various signs such as Romberg's, Stellwag's, von Graefe's, and so forth, may perhaps seem arbitrary; but reference to the minor