

work we shall restrict ourselves to describing certain operations as typical. We do not intend to compare all the alternative methods, merely because they have a famous man as sponsor. A young surgeon who has mastered the anatomical and physiological principles on which operative surgery is based, can readily draw his own conclusions as to the merits of different methods authorised or preferred by experienced surgeons, if he watches them operating on the living subject.

It is a very serious matter for patients if a junior surgeon disregards the necessity for method in operating. In operations on the face we have seen incisions used which damaged the facial nerve and inflicted on the patient an unnecessary lifelong disfigurement.

As we pointed out in the preface, it is even more reprehensible to undertake an operation without having established definite indications and instructions for its performance. Apart from giving an accurate description of individual operations, supplemented by intelligible illustrations, we consider it one of the chief requirements of a text-book of operative surgery to afford full information on this point. Young practitioners often come straight from a course of operative surgery on the cadaver—generally a crash-course before an examination—without the slightest knowledge of the conditions which call for the performance of an operation.