

PREFACE.

the notes a little further the work might become a useful adjunct to the general practitioner, whose busy life prevents him securing on all occasions the time necessary for consulting larger works. For such, however, it is not intended as a work for extended research, but from its method of compilation, and from its extensive index, it is hoped that it will serve as a means for ready reference, as well as an index to the many large and excellent works on the subject.

With these objects in view, the author has endeavored to place the subject in as plain and simple a manner as possible, preferring simplicity of expression to the adornment of language. Each subdivision has been briefly described, doubtful points, or subjects open to discussion, discarded, and only such treatment recommended as has stood the test of experience, believing it better to be armed with a few reliable methods of treatment than surrounded by a wilderness of uncertainty.

In the method of arranging the various subdivision, the author has followed that adopted by Garrigue in his excellent work, feeling confident that regional classification is simpler than a pathological one.

In the description of diseases, or of surgical methods adopted for their relief, names of individuals have, as far as possible, been avoided, as being often misleading.

While expressing his own convictions, the author has endeavored to interweave into the pages of the work the opinions of those who represent the most recent and advanced thought, and of those who have been separated out for distinction in the subjects upon which they have written.

Marginal references and foot notes have been avoided, because a knowledge of the source of the literature that has been incorporated is of no advantage to the student until he has mastered the rudiments of the science, and the practitioner can find in the large works of reference all the historical or other facts which he may seek.