

PREFACE TO THE GERMAN EDITION

JUST fifty years have elapsed since von Heine brought out his exhaustive monograph on infantile paralysis, and clearly defined the disease as a separate entity. Since that time, the treatment of the condition itself, and of the distressing sequelæ to which it may give rise, has made striking progress, especially as regards the surgery of the paralysis itself. It is remarkable that no orthopædist has as yet undertaken to review the really gratifying progress that has been made during that period.

I have long been thinking of trying to fill this gap in our surgical literature, but have been too busy to do so. I felt, moreover, that if I were to improve upon von Heine's work, it could only be by basing my statements upon a very extensive personal experience.

The number of paralytics who have passed through my hands during the past fifteen years is certainly greater than any collection of cases that has yet been recorded in an epidemic.

In the matter of treatment, too, orthopædic methods continue to advance, and new surgical modes are constantly being introduced. It seems well, therefore, to delay no longer, but to bring out this book at once, while current events are directing public as well as surgical interest to the question of infantile paralysis.

The work deals almost exclusively with the orthopædic treatment of the sequelæ of epidemic myelitis, but a few introductory chapters have been added, dealing with the symptomatology, ætiology, and pathological anatomy of the disease. They are by no means a complete account, but may serve as an introduction. The rest of the book is divided into two parts, of which the first deals with the therapeutic methods in use at the present time; the second comprising a description of the paralyzes of the various parts of the body, and of their treatment.

I have endeavoured to give a truthful representation of the views of