

AUTHORS' PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

It is not our intention to set forth in this work a full account, with illustrative cases, of Neurasthenia and its treatment. This affection has been the subject of many descriptions since the truly fundamental picture of it drawn by Beard. The American author was not indeed the first to observe and to isolate Neurasthenia, since its principal symptoms are found in the *Spinal Irritation* of Franck, the *Proteiform Neuralgia* of Cerise, the *Nervosity* of Bouchut, and the *Cerebro-cardiac Neuropathy* of Krishaber; but Beard's monograph had the merit of being more synthetic and more complete than its predecessors, and above all it had the good fortune to appear at a propitious moment. While *Nervous Exhaustion* seemed to become multiplied in America and naturally drew the attention of neuro-pathologists (Weir Mitchell after Beard), in the old world the new conditions, created by the exigencies of modern life, promoted the recrudescence of the *Neurosis from Exhaustion* of which Monneret had already spoken.