

PREFACE.

A NINTH edition surely renders any preface redundant. But lest *none* should seem to savour of presumption, let me say that it is the result of a thorough overhauling of the book from beginning to end by Dr. Still and myself. A good deal of material has thus been added, and now for the first time some few illustrations have been inserted. In every new edition of a work of this kind there is much prolonged labour in removing effete information, in adding new material, and in generally bringing a book up to the first line of fire without undue precipitation and with well-steadied supports; this we have endeavoured to accomplish.

Some criticism was made upon the somewhat mixed usage of "I" and "we" in the last edition. We have had this in mind as we have gone over the proofs, and something has been done to render it less annoying, but when one man writes a book and another after a time carries it on, it is not easy to avoid all ambiguity of authorship. Dr. Still was generously scrupulous that the book should remain as much as possible as originally written, and thus some supernumerary Egos are readily accounted for. Nor would I wish it otherwise, because the book was never in any sense a compilation. It was intended to be, and it was, an attempt to describe my own personal experience as I had obtained it at Guy's Hospital and at the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children, and as such it was original and, so to speak, my own. And I cannot but think that the favour that has so continuously been accorded to it is, in part, due to the picture of disease as I have myself seen it, appealing to those who have looked to it for information.

Dr. Still has of late years carried on the work on similar lines,