PREFACE
TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

Since the first publication of this work, nearly eleven years ago, it has passed through three large editions in this country and two in America. It has also been translated into German by Dr. Oscar Thamhayn, of Halle; and is now in the hands of a French editor.

The favourable reception which it has thus met with, at home and abroad, has stimulated me to spare no exertion in my endeavour to make the present edition worthy of the continued confidence of the Profession, as a Guide to the Practitioner, and a Text-Book for the Student in Surgery. With this view, every page has been carefully revised. Some chapters have been in a great measure re-written; new woodcuts have been introduced; and the text has been considerably enlarged. The additions thus made to the work have not been confined to any particular parts of it, but have been widely distributed through the various subjects of which it treats. They are almost entirely of a practical character, embodying the results of my extended experience, and containing an account of the most important recent advances in Surgery.

Surgery is that Department of the Healing Art which treats upon and includes the consideration of—

1. The Injuries—from whatever cause arising—to which the human frame is liable.
3. All External Diseases; and all those Diseases that
specially or primarily affect the Organs of Sense, of Locomotion, and of Reproduction.

4. All those Diseases that require Manual, Mechanical, or Operative means for their cure or relief; and the nature and application of such means.

In considering so wide a range of subjects as this, the general arrangement adopted in previous Editions of this Work has been preserved in the present one. The Book is divided into three parts. The First Division, under the head of First Principles, contains general observations on Operative Surgery, and more especially on Amputations; together with a condensed view of the Nature and Treatment of Inflammation and its Special Forms. The Second Division comprises the consideration of Surgical Injuries; and the Third that of Surgical Diseases.

In considering both Injuries and Diseases, it has appeared to me to be more consistent with a natural arrangement to treat, first, of those common to all parts of the Body, as Wounds, Abscesses, Ulcers, &c.; secondly, of the Injuries and Diseases of Special Tissues, as of the Osseous Tissue—Fractures and Necrosis; of the Vascular Tissue—Wounds of Blood-Vessels and Aneurisms; and, thirdly, of the Injuries and Diseases of Regions.

The more Special Operations I have considered as part of the Treatment of the different Injuries and Diseases for which they are required; a plan which, I think, is more practically useful than to describe them apart as a separate subject. I have limited the consideration of Affections of the Eyes to Injuries of those organs; their Diseases being a special subject of such magnitude, as to require for its proper description far more space than could be allotted to it in this work. For a similar reason, a limited notice only has been taken of Diseases and Injuries of the Ears.

Throughout the work, it has been my object to place before the practitioner and student the Art and Science of Surgery, not as consisting merely in the observation of such Diseases, Injuries, and Malformations as belong to the classes mentioned above, or in the dexterous application of manual or operative means for their
relief; but as demanding an exercise of general Medical knowledge, and a thorough acquaintance with all those conditions, whether intrinsic to the patient or surrounding him, that favour or prevent his restoration. The remarks in the commencing paragraphs of the first Chapter will, it is trusted, sufficiently indicate to the student what is required of him in this respect, in order that he may become a successful practitioner.

In every instance, I have endeavoured to give as plain and full a description of Symptoms, Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment, as the importance of each demands and the present state of our knowledge permits. With regard to Diagnosis, I may specially remark that, as accuracy in this branch is an all-important requisite for success in Treatment, I have, in each case, not merely described the signs and symptoms by which the injury or disease under consideration may be recognised, but have been careful—even at the risk of repetition—to point out the several conditions with which it may be confounded, and the means of distinguishing it from each of them.

In discussing the numerous topics that are embraced in a systematic Treatise on Surgery such as this, I have endeavoured, so far as lies within its scope, and without entering into anything like an historical account, to ascribe to whomsoever it may be due the merit of improvements in Practice, or of discoveries in Pathology. In some cases, I may perhaps accidentally have omitted doing so; and in other instances, where the observation has become as it were the established and common property of the Profession, I may purposely have avoided encumbering the text with names and references. In order to remedy this deficiency to some extent, I would refer the reader to the more special Treatises on the subject-matter of the different chapters. Thus I would particularly direct his attention to the admirable and philosophic Lectures on Pathology by Mr. Paget, to which I have been much indebted in preparing the chapters on Inflammation and on Tumours; to the works of Sir B. Brodie on Diseases of the Joints and of the Urinary Organs; to the Treatises of Stanley on the Bones, of Lawrence on Hernia, of Fergusson on
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Practical Surgery, of Cooper and Hamilton on Fractures and Dislocations, of Travers on Injuries of the Intestines, of Guthrie on Wounds of Arteries, of Sir R. Carswell on the Elementary Forms of Disease, to those of Acton Lee and Langston Parker on Syphilis, and of my friend and colleague, Mr. H. Thompson, on Disease of the Prostate and on Stricture.

For any clerical errors in this work, I must beg the reader's indulgence. It has been prepared in the midst of the harassing and onerous duties that devolve upon a Hospital Surgeon, a Teacher of Surgery, and a Private Practitioner in this Metropolis, which are but little favourable to literary pursuits.

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