

Preface to the 8th Edn. 1912/1909  
Signed Oxford.  
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## PREFACE TO THE EIGHTH EDITION.

In the twenty years that have passed since the publication of the first edition, triennial revisions have appeared regularly, with one exception - to secure protection against an edition pirated in Great Britain, a fifth edition had to be issued not long after the fourth. Comparing the first with the present, very little remains of the original work. The essential ground-work has been, as far as possible my personal experience in hospital and private practice, correlated with the general experience of the profession, as expressed in its literature. To try to keep the book up to date has been a pleasure and an ambition. Adequately to express my appreciation of the generous support accorded by my colleagues is impossible. The printed page has brought me "mind to mind" with men in all parts of the world; and to feel that I may have been helpful in promoting sound knowledge is my greatest satisfaction.

This edition has been rearranged and largely rewritten. I have grouped the infectious diseases in a different order, and considered apart those of which the specific germs are doubtful or undiscovered. The extraordinary growth of our knowledge of this department has necessitated the incorporation of much new matter in every section particularly in typhoid fever, typhus fever, pneumonia, tuberculosis and syphilis. Properly to present the recent advances many chapters have had to be recast. New sections deal with Leishmaniasis, the Sporotrichoses, the Colon infections, Poliomyelitis, Pellagra, Disorders of Metabolism, Caisson disease, Ochronosis, Hæmochromatosis, the disorders of the organs of internal secretion, and the diseases of the blood.

Dr A. G. Gibson of Oxford has helped in the rewriting of the section on the heart and arteries. To Dr H. M. Thomas and Dr Harvey Cushing I am indebted for aid in the revision of the section on nervous diseases.

My former associate at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr Thomas McCrae, has revised the sections on treatment, and the section on diseases of the organs of locomotion. He has also seen the work through the press.

Messrs. Appleton have provided a new font of type and a new page.

WILLIAM OSLER.

Oxford.