

**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY FOR
STUDENTS AND GENERAL
PRACTITIONERS: PRELIMINARY
CONSIDERATIONS AND DISEASES
OF THE SPINE**

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Orthopaedic Surgery for Students and General Practitioners: Preliminary Considerations and Diseases of the Spine by Robert Tunstall Taylor

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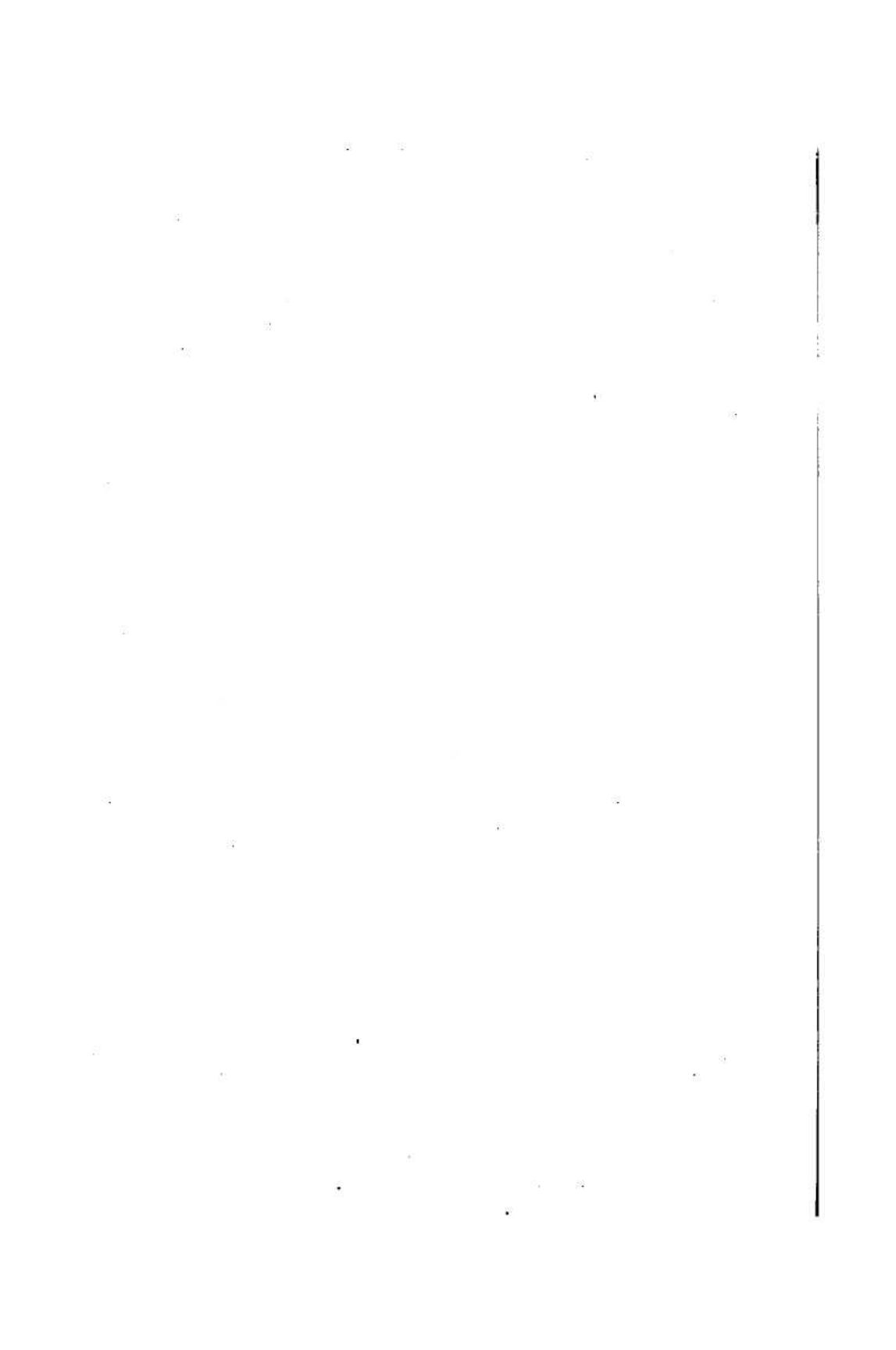
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TO
EDWARD H. BRADFORD, M.D.
AND
WILLIAM OSLER, M.D.
EARLY FRIENDS AND ADVISERS



PREFACE.

In the following pages, the author has endeavored to provide a text-book for his own undergraduate students, which would be of sufficient brevity not to strike terror to the "fourth-year-man," who is taxed now with numerous specialties, and at the same time to make it sufficiently exhaustive to permit of application and to cover the most modern and accepted views of the subject. No attempt has been made to write an extensive treatise on orthopædic surgery, nor have statistics, numberless references and obsolete methods of treating individual deformities been cited, but methods only, as a rule, which have proven useful to the author.

Baltimore, March, 1907.



CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL NOTES.

Orthopædic surgery is that branch of the surgical science which has to treat of the nature, cause, prevention, or correction of deformities by gymnastic, mechanical or surgical means, or all three. In early times, hernia, strabismus and tumors of various kinds, were by some included within the scope of orthopædic surgery, but the term is now given chiefly to the consideration of diseases or deformities, which involve the bones or the articulations. Formerly the term was restricted to the correction of deformities in children from the derivation (*ὀρθός*, straight and *παῖς*, child), but is now extended to all ages. It is more frequently misspelt "orthopedics," which the derivation does not warrant and leads many even in the profession to the belief that it treats of deformities of the feet chiefly, mixing the Latin "pes," "pedis," with the Greek word "*παῖς*," "*παίδις*."

As a special branch of surgery, orthopædics may employ in treatment hygiene and physical culture, using out-of-door life (tent dwelling), gymnastics, Swedish movements, massage and electricity; surgical operations, which allies it with general surgery, but does not invade, but amplifies that domain; medication to supply deficiencies in the economy of the organism or combat pathological processes; dietetics to insure proper feeding and to correct vicious conditions, such as malnutrition, rickets and scurvy, due to errors in the quantity, quality, temperature, preparation and character of food; and mechanical appliances and apparatus to aid functional use, to overcome faulty attitudes and malposi-

tions, to preserve proper alignment, to exercise traction or fixation on the extremities and spine.

Orthopædic surgery as a specialty separated from general surgery is of comparatively recent date in America, for its first chair dates from 1861, when the elder Sayre filled it at Bellevue Medical College. Now forty-five of our American medical schools announce special instruction in this branch, showing the widespread recognition of its importance and but few state board examinations omit questions on this subject.

From the earliest times, however, descriptions and methods of treatment of deformity have been found in surgical literature.

Nicholas Andry of Lyons, who lived from 1658 to 1742, and became a surgeon in Paris, wrote on orthopædic surgery and originated the name "L'Orthopédie." Many have called him the "Father of Orthopædic Surgery," but treatises on this subject are of much earlier origin, for they have been found as far back as the writings of Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine," who lived 460-370 B. C. and his monographs show that he had some very good methods in treating deformities, considering the period in which he lived. In his article "Concerning the Articulations," he wrote of the treatment of "club-foot,"¹ to be spoken of later. He also wrote of spinal affections and "tubercle within and without the lungs." In the "Hippocratic Writings"² of the Greek schools of Cos and Cnidos, which probably embrace not only the work of Hippocrates himself and his pupils, but also the methods and views of his predecessors, are found accounts of the articulations, of

¹The genuine works of Hippocrates translated from the Greek, by Francis Adams, M.D., London, 1849. Published by the Sydenham Society, vol. ii, pp. 632-662.

²J. S. Billings: History and Literature of Surgery; Dennis, System of Surgery, vol. i, ch. 1.