

STUDIES OF OLD CASE-BOOKS

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Studies of Old Case-books by James Paget

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PREFACE

Few things of the kind seem to be more useless than old Case-books. To the writer himself they may have some value and even great personal interest; he may profitably study himself in them as well as some of the facts which he has recorded. But to others they have no such utility. It would be difficult to find an instance, during this century, in which the old Case-books left by even the best observers in our profession have been of any use to their successors.

Thus I have often thought when, from time to time, during the last few years, I have looked through the volumes and the piles of separate records of cases that I had written. They range through a period of about forty years, beginning with an account of the first case I ever saw. A young boatman in February 1830 was accidentally shot, with a big charge from a swivel-gun, through his left knee and elbow. Both limbs were at once amputated by Mr. Costerton, of