

LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE AND ROUND SHOULDERS

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BOSTON

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THIRD EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

WITH 180 ILLUSTRATIONS

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TO
ROBERT JONES
LIVERPOOL

A GREAT SURGEON AND AN OLD FRIEND

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

In the three years and a half since the second edition of this book was published there has been much discussion of the question of the treatment of scoliosis by forcible correction, and a greatly increased interest has been awakened in the matter. In 1911 a modification of former methods of forcible correction was advocated, and for this modification was claimed a degree of effectiveness hitherto quite unknown and not in accord with our pathological knowledge. The method thus advocated was enthusiastically accepted and loudly acclaimed by many competent men. But in the last year or two a reaction has set in, and much unfavorable criticism of the method has been published. Under these circumstances I have fallen back on my own personal experience, and have published certain well-recorded cases showing what I have personally been able to accomplish by forcible correction. In addition to this I have stated what I believe to be the status of the matter at present, a status still unsettled. Apparently the time has come when a serious analysis of the results by means of roentgenograms will be required to place the matter on a convincing basis. Assertions and opinions have too long prevailed in scoliosis, and tangible facts are now required. I have rewritten a large part of the section on treatment, and I have revised extensively other parts of the book, condensing where I could and expanding where it seemed necessary. A chapter on the history of scoliosis has been added, because there seemed to be nothing in English on the subject. I have endeavored to reclassify and rearrange certain parts of the book in order to present with greater clearness certain phases of this complicated affection, because consideration of the matter has in the past tended toward complexity, and it has seemed to me that a clear statement of essential points was desirable in a book intended largely for use as a text-book.

ROBERT W. LOVETT.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

The successful treatment of lateral curvature of the spine cannot in the past be counted as one of the achievements of orthopedic surgery. The affection is not only intrinsically resistant to treatment, but the therapeutic measures employed have been on the whole largely empirical and have not been sufficiently correlated to its pathology and to the mechanism by which it is caused. In the last ten years, however, a good deal of progress has been made along new and promising lines, by means of experimental and clinical work, the records of which lie scattered through later medical literature. In the following pages I have attempted to bring together this literature and to add my own personal views and experience, in the hope of presenting the subject in English in a modern light and to call attention to the prospect offered of obtaining better results. That such a book is needed I have been led to infer from many inquiries in connection with this subject by physicians, medical students, and teachers of physical training. If I have devoted too large a part of the book to the question of treatment it is because of the scant attention paid to that part of the subject in most books dealing with deformities.

The anatomical part of the work is from the Anatomical Department of Harvard University, and much of the clinical work is from the Scoliosis Clinic of the Children's Hospital, Boston.

It is impossible to acknowledge my indebtedness individually to those of my colleagues and others who have helped me by contributing material and other assistance. I should, however, express my obligation to Professor Thomas Dwight for his advice given in connection with the anatomical part of my work, for the liberal supply of anatomical material with which he has provided me, and for criticising my chapter on Anatomy. To Miss Amy Morris Homans, Director of the Boston Normal School of Gymnastics, I wish to express my indebtedness for assistance given in many ways; and to my assistants, Fraülein Helene Seltmann and Miss W. G. Wright, for great help in preparing the list of exercises.

I have used freely the chapters on Pathology and Occurrence in the admirable article on Scoliosis by Schulthess of Zürich, recently published in Joachimsthal's "Handbuch der Orthopädischen Chirurgie."

ROBERT W. LOVETT.

BOSTON.