SCROFULA AND ITS GLAND DISEASES: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL PATHOLOGY OF SCROFULA, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE HISTOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF ITS GLANDULAR AFFECTIONS

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FREDERICK TREVES

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PREFACE.

I BELIEVE I am correct in stating that no special work on the subject of the general pathology of scrofula has appeared in the English language since the publication of the works of Benjamin Phillips, and Robert Glover in the year 1846, and no work on the subject of scrofulous gland disease since the appearance of Dr. Price's monograph in 1861. It must, at the same time, be allowed that scrofula is a disease of some importance, if on no other grounds than those of its frequent occurence and extensive distribution, and that the glandular disorders of the malady form one of the most common and most troublesome affections that come under the notice of the surgeon.

These two facts I offer as some reason for the appearance of this book at the present time.

The works of Phillips and Glover—admirable though they are—were not final as regards our knowledge of strumous processes. Since their publication immense progress has been made in pathological science, a revolution has been effected in the matter of microscopic research, and vast additions have been made to our clinical knowledge and our acquaintance with the life history of disease. In this progress and improvement scrofula has had but a somewhat niggardly share, and

58

PREFACE.

the malady, so far as the literature of this country can show us, would appear to have been almost ignored, or dealt with only in a fragmentary manner. Among Continental surgeons and pathologists, however, the subject of scrofulosis has, of late years, received more manifest attention, with the result that the pathology of the disease has been almost reconstructed, its clinical outline more acutely defined, and a more distinct individuality given to the whole disease.

In the present volume I have made extensive use of the valuable material thus provided by the schools of Germany and France. I have endeavoured to give account of the most recent facts that have been brought forward in connection with this wide-spread affection, and the most recent theories that have been expressed as to its nature and relationships.

At the same time I must, in justice to myself, remark that the greater part of the material in this volume is the result of my own investigations into this disease. The clinical facts I have detailed are drawn from a careful examination of a very large number of scrofulous persons, and in such examination I have endeavoured to proceed free from the bias of any preconceived ideas. The opinions also that I have expressed as to the pathological bases of struma are, for the most part, founded upon my own observations; and in the obtaining of material for such observations I have been very fortunate. The account given of the minute changes in the glandular affections is based upon an examination of a great number of glands in various conditions, obtained from more than twenty patients, who, I think, collectively exhibited every aspect of the strumous process. Upon the matter of the treatment of scrofulous gland tumors I have bestowed much attention, and

vi

PREFACE.

hope that my contributions to this branch of practical surgery will prove of some substantial value. The treatment of strumous gland affections is apt to be a little empirical, a little too exclusive, and, as a rule, very regardless of the fact that one favorite plan of treatment is not necssarily suitable for every phase and condition of a many-sided disease.

I must express my obligations to Dr. T. Smith Rowe, Mr. W. H. Thornton, and Mr. W. Knight Treves, the surgeons to the National Hospital for Scrofula at Margate (where I was for some time resident assistant), for permission to make use of the records of that Institution.

FREDERICK TREVES.

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18 GORDON SQUARE : November 1881. vii

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+

CONTENTS.

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82 N.

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.

S¥

67

£2

PART I.

THE GENERAL PATHOLOGY OF SCROFULA.

CHAP.								PAGE	
1.	INTRODUCTORY		•	65			•	II	
11.	SCROFULA AND TUBERCLE	2	83	82	37	×	1	14	
III.	THE NATURE OF TUBERCLE		e):	$\widetilde{\bullet}^{\mathbb{C}}$		52	3	29	
1V.	THE INOCULABILITY OF TUBE	RCLE				6	1	34	
v.	A DEFINITION OF SCROFULA	9	•			ŝŧ	3	40	
VI,	SCROFULA AND PHTHISIS, AND THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN								
	SCROFULOUS DISEASES .	•	•	•	8	2		50	
VII.	SCROFULA AND ACUTE MILIAR	¥ Tc	BERG	ULOS	ls,	38	28	62	
VIII.	THE ETIOLOGY OF SCROPULA	¥ (13	2	S.	25	64	
IX.	THE SCROFULOUS INDIVIDUAL			•3	10	(*)	3 5	79	

PART II.

SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS OF THE EXTERNAL LYMPHATIC GLANDS.

	"A SCROFULOUS	GLAN	D"	(ē	÷3	٠				110
X.	AN OUTLINE OF	гнв	ANAT		F THE	Ex	TERN.	AL L	- M3	
	PHATIC GLANDS	6.00	34	1000		×	10	3 4	13	111