

ANAESTHETICS, THEIR USES AND ADMINISTRATION

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Anaesthetics, Their Uses and Administration by Dudley Wilmot Buxton

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DUDLEY WILMOT BUXTON

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ANÆSTHETICS

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BY

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SECOND EDITION



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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

In the present edition the bulk of the matter has been recast, and materially added to, with a view to increase its utility. The uniformly kind and suggestive criticisms of the first edition have aided me, and I have in many cases adopted improvements proposed by correspondents and reviewers, notably by supplying woodcuts of most of the apparatus described. In my former edition, the descriptions were given almost in the *ipsisima verba* of the inventors, as it appeared to me that they, if anyone, should know how to describe their own ideas. In the present edition these descriptions have, however, been altered to render them it is hoped more plain.

When opinions are at variance about the action of an anæsthetic, or the value of a method, I have endeavoured to present the arguments fairly, but as

the book is intended rather as a practical manual than as a disputatious treatise, all discussions have necessarily been curtailed. While many of the illustrations are original, some are lent by the courtesy of the firms who make the apparatus they depict, or are placed at my disposal by the kindness of professional colleagues, and to all of these I tender my thanks.

82 MORTIMER STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.

June, 1892.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE introduction of anæsthetics, which has done so much to rob surgery of its horrors, alike for the patient and the operator, has created a great demand for persons capable of administering these pain-destroying agents, without unfortunately exciting, as a rule, so great a sense of responsibility in the administrator as his difficult and dangerous duties should render obligatory.

It is surprising that surgeons who have witnessed the attempts of novices to give anæsthetics, should hold any view save that no one is capable of safely giving any anæsthetic unless he has been carefully taught and has obtained considerable experience.

Personally, I do not believe that the perusal of any book will enable a medical man to do more than learn the rudiments of anæsthetising; but a book may be of

undoubted service to the thoughtful student or practitioner, in enabling him to appreciate the dangers incident to, the caution necessary in anæsthetising, and to grasp the rationale of the various methods of procedure.

Unfortunately, the subject of anæsthetics has for some years escaped the notice of the scientific side of the profession, and has as a natural result been relegated to the domain of routine.

In this book, which has been written purely from the stand-point of every day practice, I have attempted to indicate that the matter dealt with has a scientific as well as a work-a-day aspect, and that he who desires to be more than a mechanical (and hence dangerous) administrator of anæsthetics, must be scientifically, as well as practically, educated in his art.

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