PRACTICAL TREATISE

ON THE

DIAGNOSIS, PATHOLOGY, AND TREATMENT

OF

DISEASES OF THE HEART.

BY

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TO

PROFESSORS HENRY MILLER, SAMUEL D. GROSS,

LUNS福德 P. YANDELL, LEWIS ROGERS, BENJAMIN R. PALMER,

BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, JR., J. LAWRENCE SMITH,

AND

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This Volume

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.
PREFACE.

In the preparation of this volume, the aim has been to meet the wants of the medical student and practitioner by the production of a work devoted exclusively to diseases of the heart, and treating concisely, but comprehensively, of these diseases with reference to their diagnosis, pathology and treatment. Such a work, if satisfactorily executed, it is believed, can hardly fail to prove acceptable, in view of the importance of this class of diseases, the progress made in their investigation during the last few years, and the absence of any extended text-book, published in this country, having the same scope and objects, since the appearance of Dr. Hope's treatise twenty years ago. The need of a practical work on diseases of the heart is so apparent, that the present effort requires no apology; and if not successful, the fault must be imputed to the performance rather than to the undertaking. The author ventures to hope, in submitting this volume to the profession, that it may be found, in some measure at least, to supply a desideratum, the existence of which must have been felt by many practising physicians, and, more especially, by medical teachers and their pupils.

It will be observed that the arrangement of subjects in this work differs from that generally adopted. As regards the order in which the different diseases are considered, the plan usually pursued may be said to be synthetical, inflammatory affections being taken up first, and afterward the lesions which are, to a considerable extent, results of inflammation. A method which may be distinguished as analytical, has appeared to the author preferable. Pursuing this method, the work commences with the consideration of organic affections. Enlargement of the heart, occurring often consecutively to other lesions, takes precedence. To this subject the first chapter is devoted. Lesions affecting the walls of the heart naturally come next in order. These constitute the subject of the second chapter. Valvular lesions are then considered, occupying two chapters, and