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A SHORT PRACTICE OF SURGERY

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PREFACE TO ELEVENTH EDITION

In presenting this edition of Short Practice of Surgery, we have made every endeavour to keep in step with the march of surgical progress. Some chapters have been completely rewritten, notably those dealing with the thyroid, ductless glands, the liver and the stomach. The most recent concepts of the pathology of diseases of the breast have been included, together with advances in endocrine therapy for carcinoma of the breast and of the prostate.

Two new chapters appear in this edition, one dealing with Fluid Balance and the other being devoted to Radiotherapy. These additions partly account for the fact that Short Practice is now not quite so short as formerly. We have also included descriptions of some tropical diseases of surgical importance, mainly for the benefit of the many readers in distant lands.

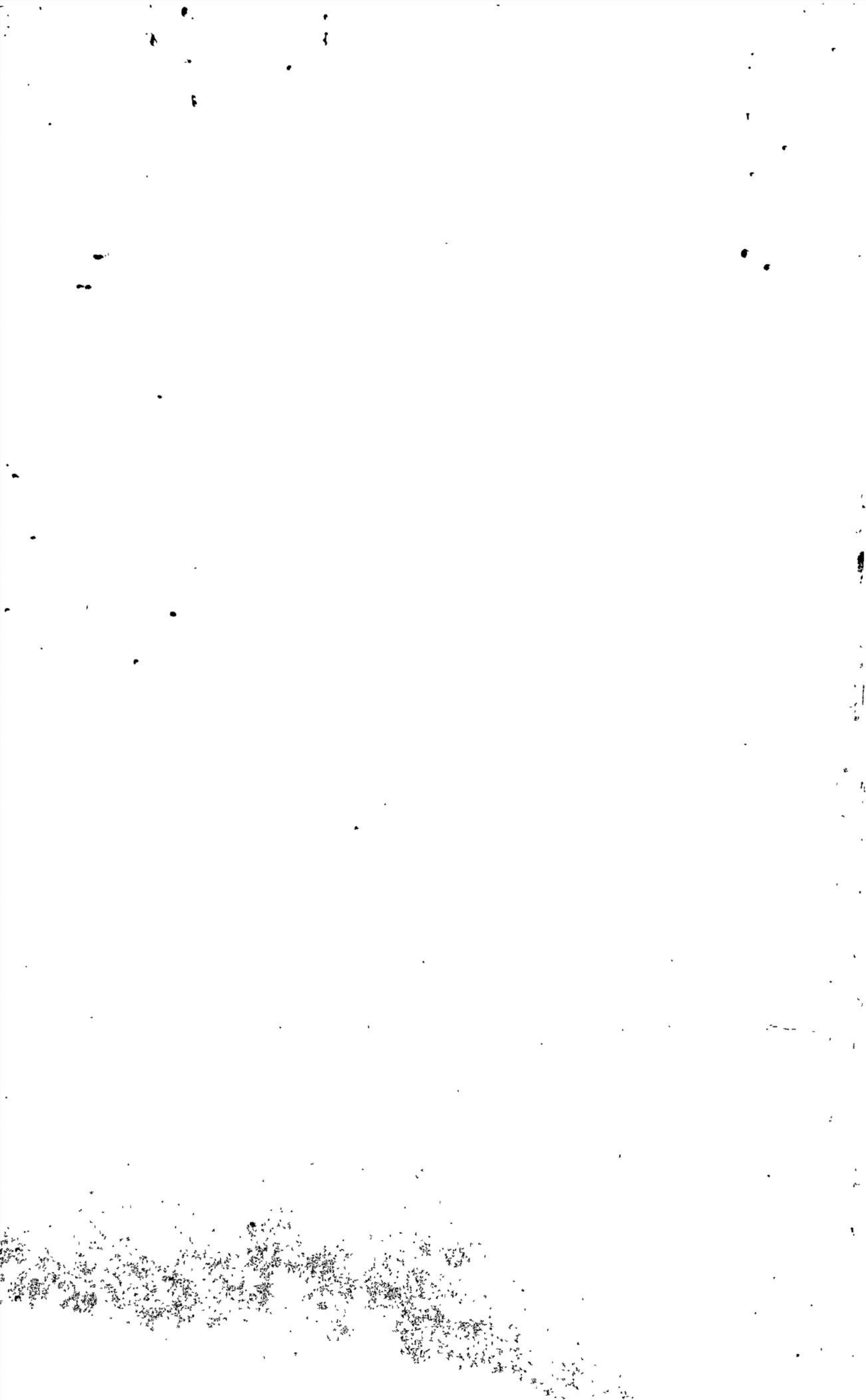
The biographical footnotes have been brought up-to-date, verified, and amplified, when necessary. Many letters indicating that these footnotes are much appreciated have been received from readers. It is once again our pleasure to thank Professor Lambert Rogers, of Cardiff, for suggesting (now many years ago) that these fragments of surgical history should be included.

We are indebted to so many who have helped in the production of this volume that our grateful thanks have been recorded in a separate List of Acknowledgments.

The Publishers have spared no expense in the preparation of illustrations, and any blocks showing even trivial signs of wear have been condemned, as they might not register clearly after a heavy printing. The total number of new blocks made for this edition is 698, and the new illustrations number 541. We wish to tender our special thanks to Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co. Ltd. and to the Printers for their expert attention to what in the publishing world is known as 'make-up'. To fit in the 1697 illustrations adjacent to the text they concern is indeed an art, and many readers fail to appreciate the skill entailed in obviating the need of turning a page back and forth to refer to an illustration relevant to the text.

December, 1958

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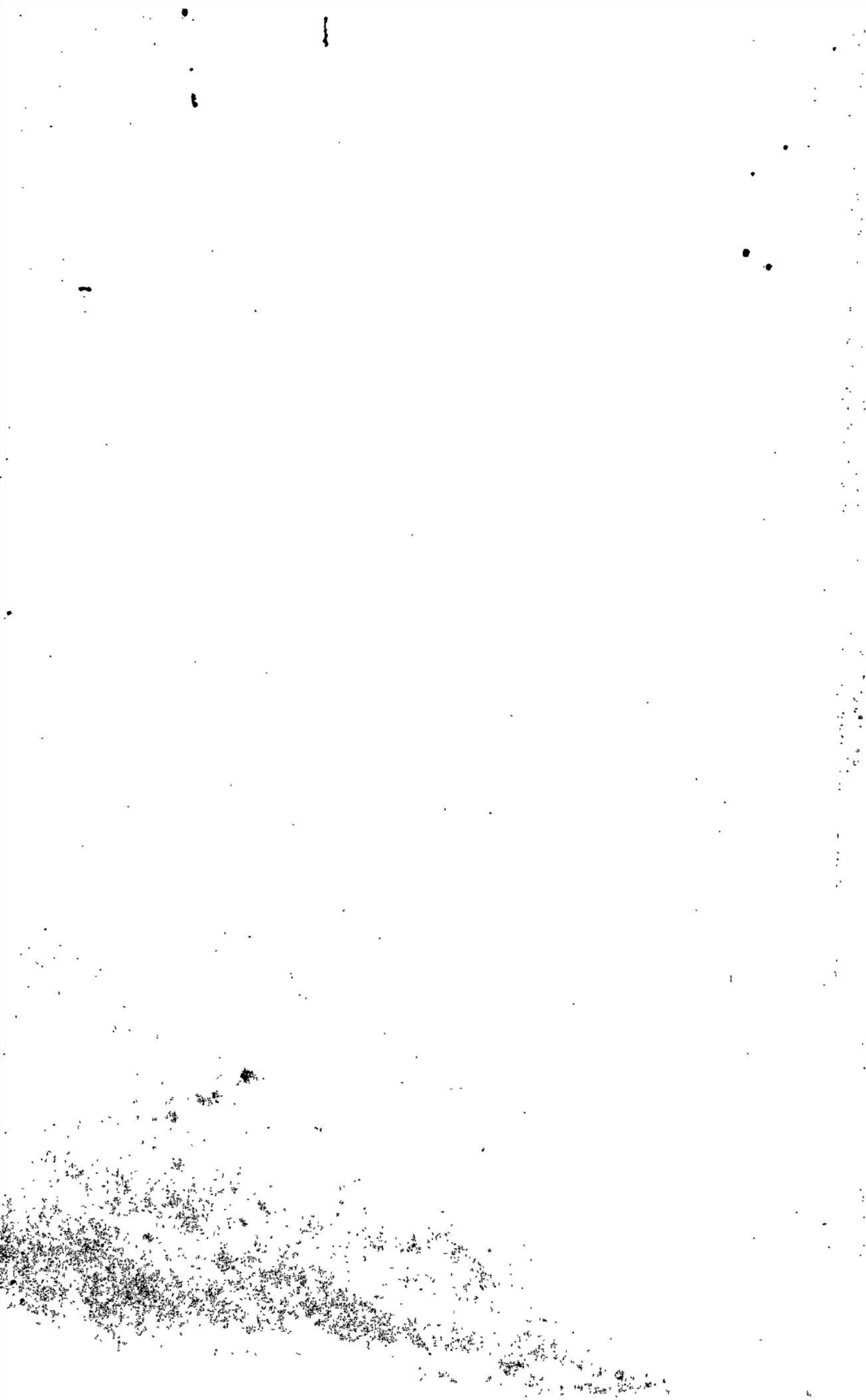
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A SHORT PRACTICE OF SURGERY

CHAPTER I

NON-SPECIFIC INFECTIONS AND WOUNDS

MCNEILL LOVE

INFECTION is the invasion of the body by pathogenic or disease-producing organisms. These organisms show a predilection for different tissues, e.g. staphylococci for skin and bones, streptococci for mucous membranes, and pneumococci for lung and peritoneum.

The more important pyogenic organisms are :

1. **Staphylococci**, which commonly cause infection of the skin and subcutaneous tissues, such as boils and carbuncles. They are also responsible for some varieties of deep-seated suppuration, e.g. osteomyelitis or perinephric abscess. In these cases the organisms are conveyed from the skin or respiratory passages to the deeper tissues by the blood-stream.

Staphylococci occur in characteristic clusters (fig. 1), are Gram-positive,

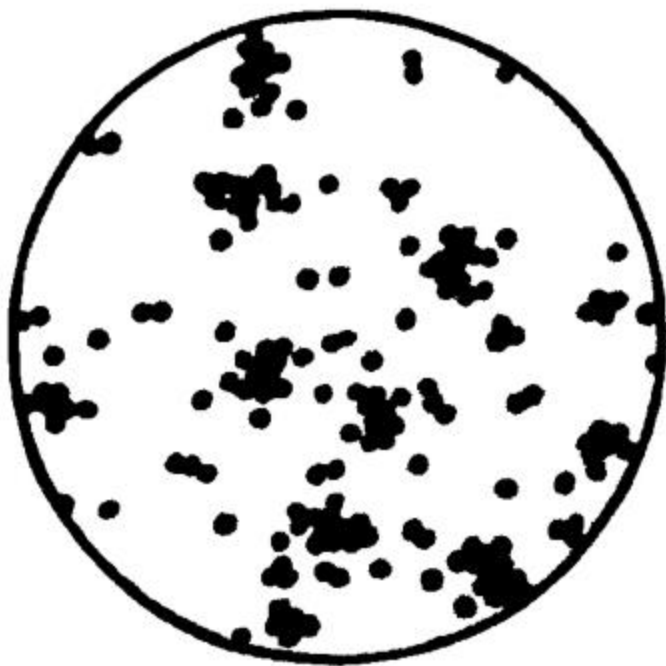


FIG. 1.—Staphylococci.



FIG. 2.—Streptococci.

and grow readily on culture media. Cultures vary in colour, and are named accordingly, e.g. albus, aureus, citreus, but the latter is non-pathogenic.

2. **Streptococci** are Gram-positive organisms, which grow in chains (fig. 2), and comprise many different strains. Members of the same strain often develop varying degrees of virulence. Two main groups of streptococci are the hæmolytic and non-hæmolytic varieties, the former being the more virulent, and producing spreading types of infection, such as

Hans Christian Joachim Gram, 1863-1938. Professor of Medicine, Copenhagen.

S.P.S.—I