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I regret very much that it was incompatible with the size of the volume to admit ample references; however, after the avowal I have just made, it will be understood that their omission has resulted neither from a wish to claim the merit of originality, nor from a desire to save myself trouble. I can truly say that I have examined every author of eminence within my reach, in the course of composition of the work, and have done my utmost to lay before the student a condensed and yet extensive statement of the present state of the science.

Perhaps I ought to say a word as to the elaborate statistics I have given. I would not overrate their value; at the utmost they only afford an approximative estimate, owing to the drawbacks upon their exactness, and could not alone furnish us with accurate conclusions; nevertheless, their value is considerable, as showing the relative mortality of the deviations from natural labour, and of the different operations. Whatever value they do possess it is evident will be in proportion to their extent and accuracy; and to secure both these points, I have examined the various reports myself, and obtained access to some but little known in this country, forming altogether a very large number.

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