

## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

There can be no question as to the value of a good Atlas of Anatomy as an aid to the acquisition and retention of correct ideas regarding the structure of the human body and the relations of its various parts. Anatomy, at least the descriptive part of it, is learned only when one can call up a mental picture of the part in question, and volumes of description will do less to furnish a correct picture than will a single dissection or the inspection of an accurate illustration. This is especially true as regards relational anatomy, and without an accurate knowledge of the relations of parts the student or practitioner will find himself sadly at sea in his application of Anatomy to diagnosis and treatment.

To both the student and the practitioner, therefore, a good Atlas must prove a great boon to the one in enabling him to impress upon his mind what he has seen in the laboratory, without recourse to the pernicious "quiz-compend," which is but a Tantalus cup, to the other in recalling the mental image more or less blurred by time. The present Atlas, with its wealth of accurate illustrations and its thorough though concise descriptive text, is presented to English-speaking students and practitioners in the full confidence that it will prove of the greatest value to them.

The work of the Editor in adapting the Atlas for English readers has largely been confined to changes in the nomenclature and in the arrangement of the text. In the original German edition the text and Atlas were separate volumes, the Atlas proper being provided with a descriptive epitome of the parts represented in the various figures. It has seemed best, both to the publisher and to the Editor of the present edition, to unite the text and Atlas in a common volume, much repetition being thereby avoided and the result being still a volume of convenient size. The translation of the German text has been done by Dr. W. Hersey Thomas.

As to the nomenclature employed, it is essentially that proposed by the Basel Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature, the terms being, however, for the most part Anglicized. In the section on Myology the Latin terms have been retained throughout, since usage has already made many of them familiar in their classical form and it seemed preferable, for uniformity's sake, to use that form for all. A few terms may be found somewhat unfamiliar to English-speaking students of anatomy, and when these are used the more familiar term has been added in parentheses. The adoption of a uniform code of nomenclature is of such great importance that the slight inconvenience which the present generation may experience in the temporary use of a double set of names for a few structures will be more than counterbalanced by the advantages which a universal terminology will eventually offer.

THE EDITOR.

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