

PREFACE

THESE chapters are intended for the general practitioner, the consulting surgeon, and candidates for the higher examinations in physiology.

There was a time when one man could be physiologist and surgeon too, but the rapid march of progress in each field has left a great gap between the sciences which is continually widening. The triumphs of the surgeon are unknown to the physiologist, and the converse is equally true. Yet many of the discoveries of the past ten years which have so changed the face of physiology are fraught with vast possibilities for the clinician. This book is an attempt to sift out from the New Physiology that which is likely to be of value in the actual diagnosis and treatment of patients.

It would be a small service to lay before the practical reader mere theories or guess-work. With but few exceptions, only the established and settled conclusions arrived at by many competent and independent workers have been introduced. Part of the chapter on cutaneous anæsthetics and a few other researches and passing suggestions for which the author is personally responsible, must stand in a different category.