

EXTRACT FROM THE PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

IN this book an attempt has been made to interweave formal exposition with practical work, according to a programme which I have followed for some time past in teaching Physiology to medical students on the other side of the Atlantic, and which has, it is believed, proved to be well adapted to their needs and opportunities. It ought, however, to be explained that, for various reasons, a somewhat wider range of experiment is open to the student in America than in this country. But as nobody will use this book except in a regular laboratory and under responsible guidance, it has not been thought necessary to mark in any special manner the parts of the exercises which the English student must do by proxy (that is, learn from demonstrations), and the parts he ought to perform for himself.

An arrangement of the exercises with reference to the systematic course has this advantage—that by a little care it is possible to secure that practical work on a given subject shall actually be going on at the time it is being expounded in the lectures. Cross-reference from lecture-room to laboratory, and from laboratory to lecture-room, from the detailed discussion of the relations of a phenomenon to the living fact itself, is thus rendered easy, natural, and fruitful.

As some teachers may wish to know how a course such as that described in the Practical Exercises may be conducted for a fairly large class, a few words on the method we have followed may not be out of place. It is obvious that many of the exercises require more than one person for their performance; and it may be said