

A TEXT-BOOK OF PATHOLOGY

PART I

GENERAL PATHOLOGY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY: CELLS AND TISSUES

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THE HISTOLOGY OF THE CELL

THE human body is made up wholly of cells and the products of cells; it takes origin from a cell, and carries on its life by cell activity; even its food is not available for its use save by the intermediation of cells. It is, therefore, reasonable that in seeking to understand the diseases of the human body one should study the diseases of the individual cell. This was realized by the great German pathologist, Virchow, in the middle of last century and, thanks to his influence the pathology of today is a cellular pathology, is based, that is, upon a study of the disturbances affecting the individual cell. But to understand these disturbances and their significance it is absolutely essential in the first place to be familiar with the healthy cell and its properties. It might be urged that such a familiarity on the part of the medical student should be taken for granted. Unfortunately there are certain properties of the cell of first importance for the pathologist which receive