

An Introductory Course in General Physiology

PREFACE

That the purpose of education is training of the mind and not the mere transference of information is a truism to some, perhaps many, university teachers. Those who agree will, I venture to think, also testify that the accomplishment of this purpose is not easily to be compassed. The student is constantly baffled, and there is his instructor who can so easily smooth the way! In addition to the well conceived purpose, one must have a sympathetic mind but a hard heart else the strategy of the student will defeat one's own.

The present outlines of work, serving as an introductory experience in the field of General Physiology, have been elaborated gradually by the senior author, through many years with the aforementioned purpose as the guiding principle. Unfortunately, the exigencies of printing demand order, headings and wordings which spoil much of the joy of solving problems, but the result will be regarded complacently, doubtless, by the student.

The general plan will be apparent. Each study leads to a contrast of the non-living with the living. If more space is devoted to the former, it is rather with the purpose of guiding the student to the recognition of principles, and to give him a grasp of the method of the modern physiologist. If the student attains this end, he will find no difficulty in finding examples of application.

The senior author hereby acknowledges the devoted co-operation of his colleague in preparing the MS. Their joint obligations to physiologists past and present will be obvious.

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