

## PREFACE

IN every Textbook of Medicine, no matter in what language it is written, diseases are grouped according to the organ affected; the description of the symptoms of each disease being followed by the treatment appropriate to it.

It is no doubt highly presumptuous of me to question the wisdom of a practice which has prevailed from time immemorial; but I venture to say that, while such an arrangement is admirably adapted for teaching diagnosis, it is wasteful and unscientific for teaching therapeutics. Wasteful, because it involves an enormous amount of repetition; and unscientific, because many of the diseases of a given organ are pathologically unrelated. For instance, under the existing system, the group, Diseases of the Lungs, includes bronchitis, pleurisy with effusion, and gumma of the lung; but it must be admitted that pathologically and therapeutically these have nothing in common.

The shortest practical way of teaching therapeutics is to place in the same group diseases which require the same treatment; and the only scientific way of teaching it is to place in the same group diseases which are of allied pathology. As might be expected, these groups more or less coincide. I have,