

PREFACE

THE present volume of the *Descriptive Catalogue of the Medical Museum of McGill University*, although the fourth in the order of the Museum classification, is the first portion ready for publication. We owe its timely appearance to the activity of Professor Gruner, who, as collaborator on this section, has catalogued the specimens, written the didactic introductions, and appended a detailed table of contents in catalogue numbers. The specimens have also been examined microscopically wherever this was of interest, and the corresponding slides filed in the Museum, where they are readily accessible to the student. This feature is of especial importance in the present series on the hæmopoietic organs, both because the gross appearances are here frequently insufficient for diagnosis, and because the pathogenesis of these conditions is in many cases still obscure.

A word of explanation on the system of cataloguing as applied in this Museum is necessary.

The Museum Classification. The specimens are arranged on a system of Museum classification after a plan suggested by the late Professor Wyatt Johnston, and introduced in the year 1899. A descriptive number is used, in which the number representing the anatomical condition precedes, and that representing the pathological follows the decimal point, the individual specimen being indicated by a small index figure placed to the right of, and above, the descriptive number. The advantage of this system is that it allows of indefinite expansion, the catalogue number becoming