

## PREFACE

IN this monograph an attempt has been made to describe and discuss within a reasonable compass our present knowledge with regard to the Pituitary Body, in the belief that a more or less complete summary of the subject is needed by the clinician, if not by the morphologist and physiologist, owing to the commanding position this organ now occupies in Medicine, Surgery, and Gynæcology, as well as in the other specialities. Descriptions of the Pituitary are to be found in various monographs, such as those of Thaon, Fischer, and Cushing, and in the works on the internal secretions of Biedl, Vincent and others; but in one aspect or another these accounts appear to lack the completeness, manner of presentation, or point of view that is required by the general reader, however well they fulfil special requirements.

Our own experimental work—commenced in 1906—was primarily undertaken in order to elucidate the relationship of the Pituitary to the female genital functions, and to determine the physiological and therapeutical importance of extracts made from this organ; but we were led in our investigations further afield, for it was difficult to study comprehensively such special aspects as those mentioned without first obtaining an intimate knowledge of the morphology, and, so far as possible, of the pathology of the organ in question. Thus it came about that a considerable amount of material and information was collected from the work of others, and also as the result of our own observations. Our researches have been concerned with the histological anatomy from developmental, physiological and comparative points of view; with the physiological actions of the extracts, the interrelationships between the Pituitary and other organs of internal secretion, the effects of partial and complete removals, the results of experimentally produced infections, the general pathology, and with the therapeutical uses of extracts of the