

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

When I was invited by the publishers to prepare an atlas of descriptive anatomy at a time when good atlases were in abundance and the wants of the preceding decennium had been largely supplied, I did not accept without due reflection as to the demand for such a work. I believed that this demand could be best tested by having students use the existing atlases in their dissections. This test demonstrated not only the possible popularity of an appropriate work, but in many respects emphasized the necessity of preparing an atlas which would be handy, practical, not too comprehensive, provided with illustrations true to nature, and specially adapted for the use of medical students in the dissecting room.

My first thought, consequently, was to prepare an atlas which would supply the practical wants of both the student and the physician. It is not an atlas for the finished anatomist. The admirable atlas of Toldt contains a vast number of well-chosen illustrations, but it is so comprehensive that it is difficult for the student to pick out what he actually needs, and, owing to its high price and the fact that many of its illustrations are not true to nature, it has not met with great favor from the student body. In the present atlas the aim has been to limit the material to what is absolutely necessary.

The first volume has been compiled as an atlas especially adapted for use during dissection, and the illustrations have consequently been arranged to conform to the usual methods of instruction in anatomy. The fundamental principle of the work has been to avoid any unusual presentation of the subject which would make the recognition of well-known relations more difficult for the beginner.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first anatomical atlas in which multicolor lithography has been employed. Almost the entire myology has been illustrated in this manner; of the thirty-four plates in this volume, thirty were made by this method and the remaining four by the so-called three (four) color process. The other illustrations were made by the so-called half-tone method, the complete adaptability of which is abundantly demonstrated by the pictures. Additional explanatory figures and diagrams have been reproduced by simple line-etching. No woodcuts have been employed, since the failure of the latter method to produce illustrations true to life has been distinctly shown by several of the newer anatomical atlases. It leaves entirely too much to the discretion of the wood-engraver, whereas the photomechanical method of reproduction depends entirely upon the impression made upon the photographic plate by the original drawing.*

* It has been claimed for the woodcut that many designations may be cut in the matrix, so that reference lines are not necessary. To my mind, this advantage is not of much value, since it is quite a limited one. Lithography allows of a much freer subsequent addition of the designations to whatever extent they may seem desirable, and when small they are not so illegible as they frequently are in the woodcut. Since it is undoubtedly true that a large number of reference lines are inelegant and confusing, they have been made in as few instances as possible, and where many designa-