

# **AIDS TO ANATOMY**

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Aids to anatomy by George Brown

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**GEORGE BROWN**

**AIDS TO  
ANATOMY**



AIDS  
TO  
ANATOMY,

BY

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## PREFACE.

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The anatomical memoranda to be found in the following pages, and which I have designated "Aids to Anatomy" have been reprinted from *THE STUDENTS' JOURNAL AND HOSPITAL GAZETTE* at the suggestion of many readers of that journal, who were desirous of possessing the "Aids" in a collected and permanent form.

If what is here given be favourably received by Students of anatomy, I shall be encouraged to extend the series at some future time; at present I am content to launch this small and unpretending volume and await the verdict of those for whom it is intended.

GEORGE BROWN.

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## AIDS TO ANATOMY.

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There are some students who will ask—and with good reason—“What, in the name of all that is rational, is the use of adding one jot or tittle to our anatomical literature?” “Have we not Quain, Ellis, Gray, Holden, Wilson, Heath, and a host of other works, all of them masterpieces in their way, and any one of them equal to carrying us through any ordinary examination?” I confess that it is difficult to find an answer to these questions, especially since I cannot even pretend to have made a single anatomical discovery, or to have happened on any one anatomical fact, that has not been treated of by one or more of the above observers. But it is quite possible to present these facts to the learner in a different form, and to group the more important in such a manner that the mind may more readily grasp and retain them. This, then, is the object of these papers.

Anatomy is not generally considered to be an interesting subject, or one easy to master, and often the beginner is overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task before him, and despairs of ever becoming familiar with its details. This feeling, though very natural, is scarcely warranted if a proper estimate of the difficulties to be met be formed. For, after all, anatomy is not more

difficult to the medical student than the study of geography to the school-boy. He has to learn all about the various countries of the world, their names, situation, boundaries, and divisions, their mountains and valleys, the rivers running through them, together with their origin, size, branches, communications, and terminations. In the same manner, the student of anatomy has to learn how the body is divided into regions and spaces, their names, situation, boundaries, and contents, the vessels and nerves met with in these spaces, together with their origin, size, branches, communications, and terminations. These particulars respecting the regions and spaces into which the human body is divided are among the things that a student must know *by heart* before presenting himself for an anatomical examination, should he wish to pass with credit. It was to facilitate the acquisition of this knowledge, in my own case, that these "Aids" first obtained a place in my note-book, and, as I found them of assistance, I may hope that they will prove a help to others. And here let me disclaim any intention to palm off the "Aids" as original. Some were copied from anatomical works, others from the slates in the dissecting rooms I have visited, and for many I am indebted to gentlemen connected with the dissecting rooms of other hospitals, whilst a few only can be said to be original. Those who have been subscribers to *THE STUDENTS' JOURNAL* from the commencement will observe that some of the "Aids" were published in its early issues; but as I am told by the publishers that most of these numbers are out of print, and are often asked for by students preparing for "College" examinations, they are now republished in a permanent form.

It may be as well to caution those who are on the lookout for a "royal road" to anatomical knowledge against imagining that the "Aids" will render dis-

section unnecessary. No greater mistake can be made. In anatomy, nothing can ever take the place of actual dissection, and he who ventures to present himself at the College of Surgeons' "Primary" with nothing more than book knowledge will assuredly pay the penalty.

As before remarked, the human body is divided into a number of regions and spaces, which are of the highest importance, both anatomically and surgically, and it is not surprising that great stress is laid on them at surgical examinations. Among the more important spaces are the triangles of the neck, Scarpa's triangle, the popliteal space, and the axilla, the consideration of which will now occupy our attention.

#### I.—THE ANTERIOR TRIANGLE OF THE NECK.

The anterior triangle of the neck is the space in front of the anterior border of the sterno-mastoideus muscle, and is limited by the following boundaries:—

*In Front.*—Median line of the neck from the chin to the top of the sternum.

*Behind.*—The anterior border of the sterno-mastoideus.

*Above.*—Body of lower jaw, and a line continued from its angle to the mastoid process of the temporal bone, forming the *base* of the triangle. [The *apex* is at the top of the sternum.]

*The Floor.*—The floor is formed by the following muscles:—Sterno-thyroideus, sterno-hyoideus, thyro-hyoideus, inferior and middle constrictors of the pharynx, the anterior belly of the digastricus, stylo-hyoideus, mylo-hyoideus, and hyo-glossus. The floor is crossed by the anterior belly of the omo-hyoideus and the *posterior* belly of the digastricus, which sub-