# PHYSIOLOGICAL THERAPEUTICS: A NEW THEORY

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Physiological Therapeutics: A New Theory by Thomas W. Poole



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THOMAS W. POOLE

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Trieste

PHYSIOLOGICAL

# THERAPEUTICS:

## A NEW THEORY.



BY THOMAS W. POOLE, M.D., M.C.P.S., ONT.



Until we rely "upon logical deductions rather than on what are called 'time-honored facts'—because they have been asserted for a century or two, though not facts at all—the practice of our profession will not improve."—DR. T. INMAN.



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# Dedication.

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TO JOSEPH WORKMAN, ESQ., M. D., M.C.P.S., ONT.,

FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE; LATE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM, TORONTO; PRESIDENT OF THE TORONTO MEDICAL SOCIETY; EX-PRESIDENT OF THE CANADA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

## This Essay

Is respectfully inscribed: In admiration of the valuable services he has rendered to Medical and Sanitary Science, as a Skilful Physician, a learned and eloquent Teacher of Medicine, and a warm Friend of Humanity.

By a former pupil,

THE AUTHOR.

# PREFACE.

What is presented to the reader in these pages, is not a new system of medical practice; but it is a new theory of the inter-relations of nerve-force and muscular tissue throughout the body, including the relations of nerve and muscle in the coats of arteries whereby their calibre is regulated; and of the mode of action of that large class of drugs which operate through the medium of the nervous system.

The facts presented are not necessarily new; but the interpretation or explanation here given of them, differs materially from the opinions generally accepted by the Medical Profession.

If an apology be necessary for the apparent boldness of venturing to call in question accepted theories, with which great names are identified, perhaps beside the general plea of progressive ideas, the special justification may be urged, that the facts, experiments, and observations upon which this new departure is based, are drawn from the published works of our standard authorities in physiological, electrical and medical science, including those of recent times.

The assertion of the inherent and independent contractile power of muscular tissue, and the function of nerve-force as a restraining power over it, is not new; but has long ago found a place—though an obscure one—in medical literature. For the arguments by which this assertion is sustained; for the new doctrines embodied in the other "general principles"; and for the application of the facts presented in support of them, we are solely responsible.

Fully conscious that our task has been very imperfectly performed, carried on as it has been during the brief leisure and frequent interruptions of an active practice, and that our theory will have to sustain the ordeal of adverse criticism; we are, nevertheless, of

opinion, that from its practical importance, and the weight of evidence in its favor, we are justified in submitting it to the Profession.

Our references to authorities are perhaps more numerous than are ordinarily required; but in a work of this kind, we ask the reader to take as little as possible on trust from us, and therefore have not spared to support the facts mentioned by ample references to our sources of information.

The advancement of medical science will probably shew that some of the views expressed in this essay are untenable; we are not without hope that it may confirm and establish others.

*Lindsay, Ontario, Canada, February 17th, 1879.*

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