

**A MANUAL OF  
PRACTICAL NORMAL  
HISTOLOGY**

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A manual of practical normal histology by T. Mitchell Prudden & George C. Freeborn

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PRACTICAL NORMAL  
HISTOLOGY

BY

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THIRD EDITION REVISED BY

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## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

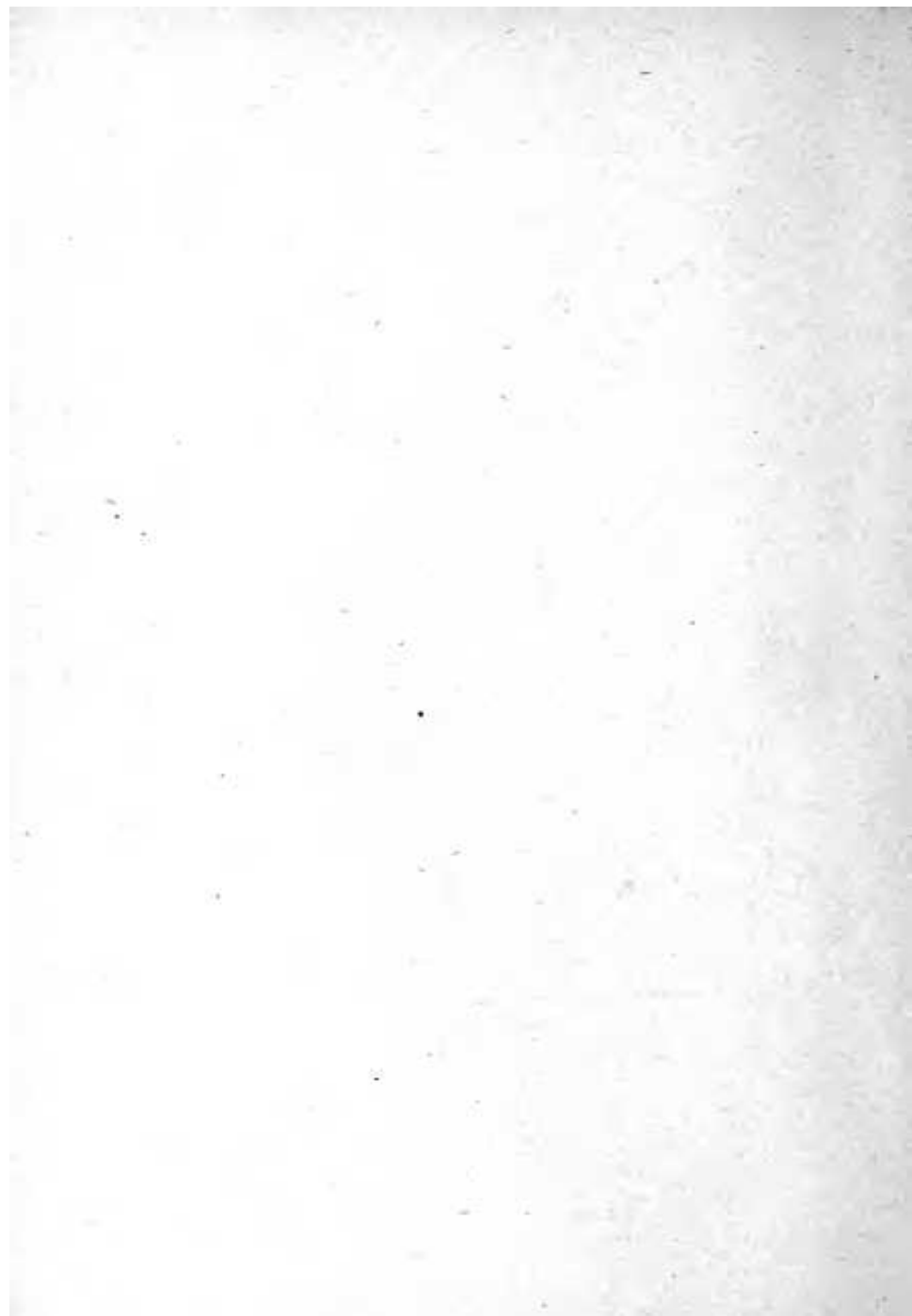
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The advances in Normal Histology since the second edition of this book was issued, in 1884, have been largely in the direction of improved technique. While, therefore, in this revision such new facts in the science have been embodied as seem sufficiently well established and of such importance as to come within the scope of this manual, the more important additions will be found in the details of laboratory methods.

T. M. P.  
G. C. F.

NEW YORK, September, 1891.

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## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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THIS book has been prepared for the use of those students and practitioners of medicine who, with a limited amount of time at their disposal, wish to acquaint themselves in a practical way with Normal Histology. It is especially designed for those who study the science in classes, with an instructor in a laboratory; but the technical procedures are described with sufficient fulness for the needs of those who are obliged to pursue the study by themselves.

The method adopted is to give a brief description of the tissues and organs in appropriate sequence, following each description with an account of the way in which the structures described may be demonstrated. The descriptions were written for the most part at the microscope table, with the preparations made by the methods recommended, under the eye of the writer, so that it is believed that the student will have no difficulty in verifying them.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the necessity of each student making outline sketches of all

but the more complicated structures examined, and for this provision has been made in the book. It is not to be expected that epitomized descriptions of structures as elaborate as are many of those with which we have to deal in Human Histology, will be in all cases perfectly clear and intelligible without the aid of plates; but the specimens which the student prepares, and the sketches from them which he makes, will make good, it is hoped, the lack of illustration in the text. Indeed, the more critical examination which accurate sketching requires, as well as the facility which this exercise cultivates, will enlarge the achievements of such a course of study beyond the acquirement of a knowledge of this theme alone, so as to embrace a valuable training of the eye and hand.

This book is not designed to take the place of more elaborate treatises on this subject; nor is it written with the design of fostering the deplorably widespread tendency among medical students to be content with the barest smattering of those branches which are not in the most evident manner "practical." On the contrary, where time permits, collateral reading and additional practical work are most urgently recommended. But the necessity for improvement in medical education, which is expressing itself in the medical colleges of this country, especially in the establishment of laboratories and practical courses of instruction, is, unfortunately,

not yet sufficiently deeply felt as to have led to the general lengthening of the period of undergraduate study; so that very little time is usually at the disposal of medical students for collateral reading, or for the pursuit of elaborate practical investigations. It is desirable, moreover, since the laboratory time itself is usually limited, to occupy as little of it as may be, in oral descriptions of tissues and methods.

It is these considerations which seem to justify the addition of another to the long list of elementary text-books.

There are many points in this, as in every developing science, which are still unsettled—opinion in regard to them changing or being modified as new facts and investigations are recorded. These have been treated, for the most part, very briefly in the text, it being left for the supplementary oral instruction to enlarge upon and explain them, as the light thrown upon each by new researches may seem to require.

In the simpler form of "Notes on the Practical Course in Normal Histology," the substance of this book has been in use for two years in the laboratory of the Alumni Association of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and it has been found that, with some preliminary preparation of tissues by the instructor, the subject essentially as presented here can be embraced in a course of forty lessons of about two hours each.