

**HEART DISEASE AND BLOOD-
PRESSURE: A
PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION
OF THEORY AND TREATMENT**

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Heart Disease and Blood-Pressure: A Practical Consideration of Theory and Treatment by
Louis Faugeres Bishop

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LOUIS FAUGERES BISHOP

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HEART DISEASE
AND
BLOOD-PRESSURE

*A Practical Consideration of Theory
and
Treatment*

BY

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SECOND EDITION

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

DURING the four years that have elapsed since the first edition of this book was written a wide interest in the subject has developed, and the concentration of the work of the author on the heart and circulation as a specialty has resulted in certain further conclusions which he is anxious to submit to the judgment of those who received so kindly the first edition. In a chapter on "The Vessel Tone-maintaining Function of the Central Nervous System" will be found a physiological doctrine which does not appear in the literature of the day but which would seem the key to the explanation of a large number of cases. Reading with this theory in mind, it has often seemed that an author must have had the idea in view but not quite clearly enough to state

it. The chapter on "Hypertonia Vasorum Idiopathica" is a discussion of the clinical application of the theory to an important class of cases. The title of the book has been slightly changed, because it was found that "Blood-Pressure" alone conveyed the idea only of laboratory physiology while in fact the book was taken up with the consideration of cases that are popularly called "heart disease."

The author has been much gratified by the attention given to his classification of disorders of blood-pressure and by the frequent reference by writers on blood-pressure to the condition described by him in a paper reprinted on pages 87-90 describing "Constitutional Low Arterial Tension."

L. F. B.

No. 54 West 55th Street
New York

PREFACE

THE publication of a treatise on blood-pressure at a time when so much has been learned, and so many books are appearing on the subject, demands a note of explanation.

My excuse is that for the past fifteen years, indeed, ever since as an hospital interne I first came in contact with patients suffering from serious disease in which the circulation was involved, the question of the vital relations of the physics of the circulation has been one of the most interesting problems that has constantly presented itself in the domain of clinical medicine. During this time the care of patients suffering from those diseases and conditions in which the fight for life was a contest with progressive circulatory failure, has formed a serious part of my work.

It is a fact that is constantly appearing in the literature of the day, that circulatory disease, as represented in statistics of disease of the heart and disease of the kidneys, is relatively more frequent than formerly. It is undoubtedly true that under the strain of modern life, many other causes of disease having been eliminated, disorders of the circulation dependent upon altered blood-pressure have become very important.

Just as tuberculosis has for its victims the most attractive of the youth of the land, so high arterial tension claims the best and most successful of those past middle life who have borne the weight of the strenuous demands of a modern career. Much attention is now being directed to tuberculosis because its cause and progress have become a matter of public knowledge. The victims of circulatory disease, however, still too often go for months and years without intelligent treatment because no one has pointed out to them the danger signals and

the signboards which point to the destruction to which they are tending.

Admirable as is the work of the rescue of the young, who may or may not become citizens of marked usefulness, how much more important to the community is it if some years can be added to the career of the mature and trained worker.

The subject of the mechanical measurement of the actual pressure in the vessels has not been considered, as that is so well discussed in other works, and it was here wished to emphasize the clinical relations of blood-pressure as interpreted in the light of clinical experience. There is an over-respect in these days for so-called *scientific work*, wrongly limiting the term to that which is in some way connected with a laboratory and apparatus. This is a narrowness of recent times. There are many sciences besides mathematics, experimental biology, and chemistry, and if clinical workers yield the field of medicine

entirely to the so-called research workers and the laboratory men, there is certain to be a halt in the progress of the art of medicine as it bears upon the wise management of the individual during the course of his life.

These are the reasons for the publication of the conclusions which are the result of clinical work upon a subject which is being well considered from a mechanical and laboratory point of view.

L. F. B.