

**THE ANIMAL ALKALOIDS, CADAVERIC
AND VITAL OR, THE PTOMAINES AND
LEUCOMAINES,
CHEMICALLY, PHYSIOLOGICALLY AND
PATHOLOGICALLY CONSIDERED IN
RELATION TO SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE**

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The Animal Alkaloids, Cadaveric and Vital or, the Ptomaines and Leucomaines, Chemically, Physiologically and Pathologically Considered in Relation to Scientific Medicine by A. M. Brown

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CHEMICALLY, PHYSIOLOGICALLY AND PATHOLOGICALLY
CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO SCIENTIFIC
MEDICINE.

BY A. M. BROWN, M.D.

WITH an Introduction by

PROFESSOR ARMAND GAUTIER,

*Of the Faculté de Médecine of Paris, and Member of the Académie de Médecine,
and of the Académie des Sciences.*

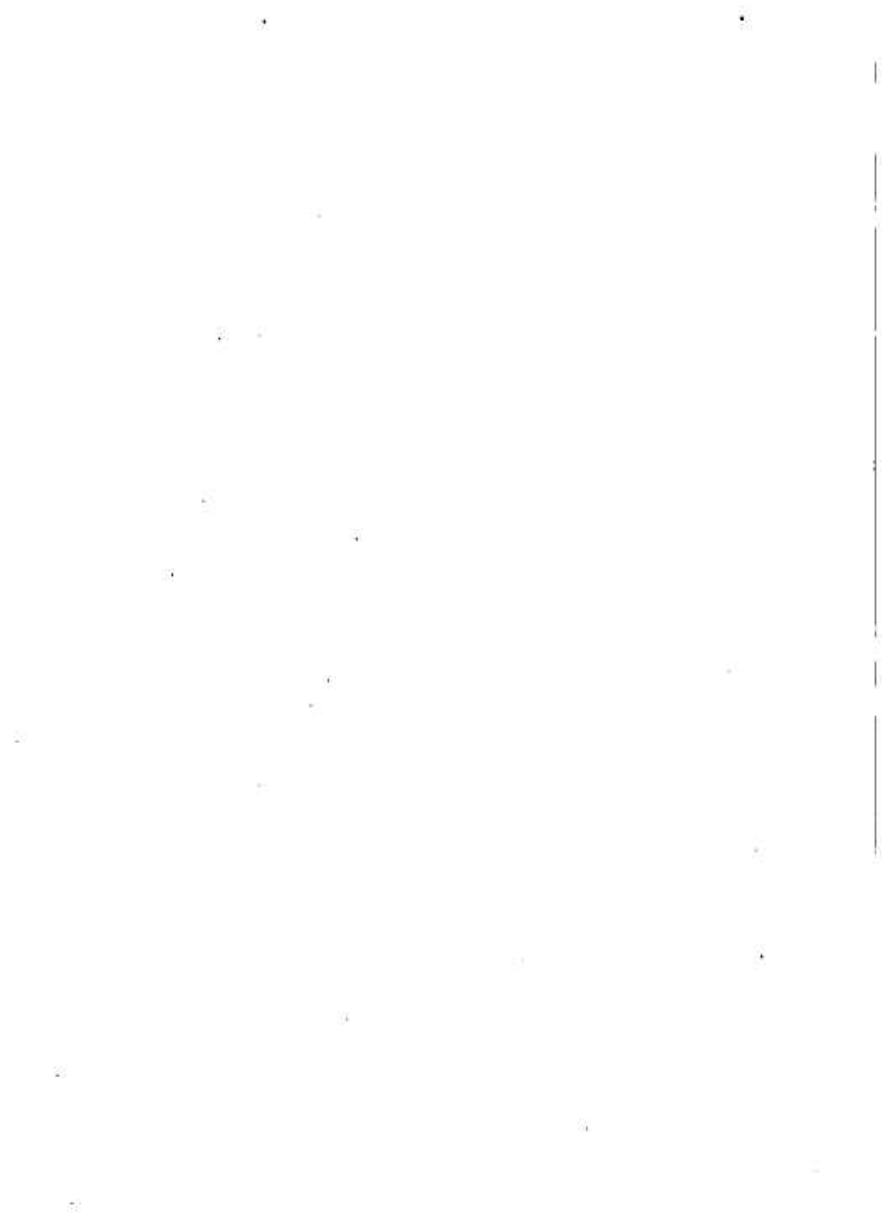
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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE author, in proposing to himself the issue of a second and enlarged edition of his Treatise on the Animal Alkaloids, believes that in so doing he will supply a professional want. The original work is now out of print, though only put through the press within the last eighteen months. Its so rapid exhaustion he naturally attributes to the high and intrinsic interest attaching to the subject to which this work has directed attention.

The startling problems involved in the study of the Animal Alkaloids is no longer exclusively limited to the special department of the experimental chemist and physiologist; laying claim as it does to a much wider range, it should now be made accessible to the student of medicine generally. The present work in its revised and enlarged form the author thinks well calculated to meet this requirement and purpose.

Strictly practical in arrangement, the work divides itself into five parts, the first of which deals with the

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ptomaines or cadaveric alkaloids. The second treats of the leucomaines, or vital alkaloids, each class being investigated under its various aspects, whether chemical, toxic, or medico-legal. The third part indicates the physiological origin of the leucomaines and their *role* in auto-intoxication in disease. The fourth and fifth parts, in which is traced out the farther developments of the subject, is devoted to material entirely new, which has been brought down to the latest date.

Though not proposing to be a treatise that shall be thoroughly exhaustive, it will admittedly be found to supply what has hitherto not existed in print, namely, an adequate introduction to the subject in all its bearings.

The accompanying table of contents will be found to exhibit with sufficient clearness the character and objects of the present publication.

A. M. B.

15, *Haverstock Hill.*

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN my essay on the Origin of Contagia, considered from the evolutionary point of view, two editions of which were published in 1884, the genesis and transformation of morbid elements, organic and inorganic, were reviewed ; the physiological alkaloids as factors in etiology and general pathology were noted, and their action as auto-infectants, or as toxic agents in poisoning from inoculation of putrid animal matter prophylactically or otherwise, indicated.

The startling problems the study of the alkaloids involve, having hardly been submitted to the scientific student here in England, I concluded by expressing my intention of entering more fully and more closely into the subject in a future work. The series of papers on the animal alkaloids—a list of which is here appended—which from time to time have been published by me since, were an earnest that the design was being carried out. The present treatise which I have now the pleasure of submitting for the

consideration of the competent is the fulfilment of my promise.

Without the encouragement and aid of Continental workers in this department, the task would have been impossible ; it is, consequently, with no small pleasure I have to acknowledge my great indebtedness, in the first place, to Professor Armand Gautier, whose name occupies the chief position in connection with the subject, and who has done me the honour of contributing the lucid introduction to the treatise. Secondly, to Professor Michel Peter, who has done so much to advance the claims of the animal alkaloidal factor in pathology and clinical medicine ; and, thirdly, to Professor Hugouenq, author of an excellent *résumé*, and whose valuable bibliography, supplemented by myself to the present date, finds a suitable place in the appendix, and which will doubtless be estimated at its proper worth by all who are engaged or take an interest in this special department of research. From these generous sources I have been enabled not only to avail myself of what has been hitherto recorded, but also of research material still unpublished, and to note current investigations that promise farther enrichment of this new departure in science. Evidence of this will be seen in Bouchard's "Lessons on Auto-intoxication in Disease," and Sir

William Aitken's Netley lecture, "On the Animal Alkaloids in their Pathological Relations," both now in course of publication, and which will shortly be available.

In a department of science so new and novel, many points of controversial character necessarily present themselves. I may be permitted to say that I have neither courted nor avoided them. As regards my own particular views, I trust that they are evident, but not obtrusive.

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