# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE ESSENTIALS OF PHYSIOLOGY. 1888

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PHYSIOLOGY.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ON THE

# ESSENTIALS OF PHYSIOLOGY

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

## STUDENTS OF MEDICINE.

BY

H. A. HARE, B.Sc., M.D. (Univ. of Pa.),

DEMONSTRATOR OF THERAPEUTICS AND INSTRUCTOR IN PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, AND INSTRUCTOR IN PHYSIOLOGY IN THE BIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; PHYSICIAN TO THE DISPENSARY FOR THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN, AND ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN TO THE NERVOUS DISPENSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL; PHYSICIAN TO ST. CLEMENT'S DISPENSARY AND HOSPITAL; MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHYSIOLOGISTS AND OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.



*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.*

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# PREFACE.

At the present time, when the student is forced by the rapid progress of medical science to imbibe an amount of knowledge which is far too great to permit of an attempt on his part to master it, any book which contains the "essentials" of a science in a concise yet readable form must of necessity be of value. The trite saying that "there is no short road to knowledge" is, of course, as true as it is old, and for this reason many of the medical profession have looked with disfavor on books of this character, as being the means by which students might attempt the shorter path.

No one desires more than the writer that the depth and scope of medical education may be increased, but in his belief the evil at present in existence consists in the fact that medical institutions, by granting a degree too early, make the short road to knowledge the only one which the student with the average amount of cerebral gray matter can possibly travel. The evil lies with the small amount of time required for the obtaining of the degree, not with those books which are called into existence by the shortness of the medical curriculum.

The usefulness of arranging the subject in the form of questions and answers will, the writer thinks, be apparent, since the student, in reading the standard works on Physiology, often is at a loss to discover the important points to be remembered, and is equally puzzled when he attempts to formulate ideas as to the manner in which the question could be put in the examination-room.

A manual of this character is in no one way intended to supplant any of the text-books, but to contain, as its title declares, the essence of those physiological facts with which the average student must be familiar.

After considerable thought, it has been considered advisable to exclude points which may be called purely anatomical, and which deprive some of the smaller books on Physiology of the space which might otherwise be occupied by purely physiological statements. The results reached every day by physiological experimenters are many of them so contradictory that no attempt to give individual opinions or teachings has been attempted, the statements made being supposed to represent those facts most generally accepted and taught. The student will, therefore, find statements which are not in accord with those taught by his instructor, and it is for this purpose that the interleaved edition has been published, in order that individual teachings may be noted and remembered. In the compilation of the facts here rehearsed, the standard works of Landois, Yeo, Foster, Dalton, Baker, Hermann, and Chapman have all been consulted.

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