

**THEORY AND PRACTICE  
OF THYROID  
THERAPY: A BOOK FOR  
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

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Theory and Practice of Thyroid Therapy: A Book for General Practitioners by Herbert Ewan Waller

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**HERBERT EWAN WALLER**

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THEORY AND PRACTICE OF  
THYROID THERAPY.

# Theory and Practice

OF

## Thyroid Therapy

Being some experiences of the results of Thyroid medication, with deductions concerning the influence of Thyroid secretion in health and disease, and certain effects of drugs and various circumstances upon Thyroid secretion

A BOOK FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

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## PREFACE.

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IN offering the following work to the consideration of the Medical Faculty, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the numerous writers to whose works reference is made, and in particular to Dr. Leonard Williams, whose writings have been largely responsible for renewing my interest in this particular branch, which has always appealed to me as being worthy of special study. My aim throughout has been to collect facts, and also ideas and theories based on facts, by the careful consideration of which I have attempted to draw conclusions and so advance our knowledge on the subject. I have had opportunities of treating a considerable number of patients from the thyroid standpoint, with certainly more success than I should have anticipated. I am firmly convinced that some understanding of thyroid matters is essential to the practitioner in treating every case, and will materially improve his success in the treatment of fully one-fourth of his patients. I cannot venture to hope that my interpretation



of the facts and theories under consideration is in all cases correct. The science of thyroid therapy is like all other sciences, in which what we deem to be fact to-day may eventually have to be regarded in a different light. But it is given to some to climb to success by observing the mistakes of others. So if, here and there, I have fallen into some pit unawares, others may thereby be enabled to perceive the snare and keep out of it. On the other hand, I venture to think the account of my wanderings into this little-known land may prove interesting to all, and perhaps of assistance to some in enabling them to penetrate still farther. At present the literature on the subject of thyroid therapy consists for the most part of monographs of thyroid treatment in many and various diseases. Such solitary articles are read, some by one practitioner, some by another, and are passed over or retained according to the circumstances of the moment. As to the more advanced works on such complaints as Graves's disease or myxœdema, the general practitioner is apt to consider them for the most part outside his line. He has occasionally a case of either complaint, and enough general examination knowledge to give him rough ideas as to treatment. Whether he then follows up the subject, or not, depends as a rule on the

influence of the patient, and the general pressure of other work and interests at the moment. But I venture to say that few practitioners, and not all consultants, have any idea of the individual importance to them of even such an incomplete knowledge of thyroid therapy as I have here attempted to outline. I must also take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to Mr. Rollinson-Whitaker, who has been kind enough to pass on to me for medical treatment some of his cases who were not at the moment within the realms of surgery, and has thus provided me with most valuable additional material for observation.

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