

**LESSONS IN DISINFECTION AND  
STERILISATION, AN ELEMENTARY  
COURSE OF BACTERIOLOGY  
TOGETHER WITH A SCHEME OF  
PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTS ILLUSTRATING  
THE SUBJECT-MATTER**

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Lessons in disinfection and sterilisation, an elementary course of bacteriology together with a scheme of practical experiments illustrating the subject-matter by F. W. Andrewes

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**F. W. ANDREWES**

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*W. L. Holman.*

# LESSONS IN DISINFECTION AND STERILISATION

AN ELEMENTARY COURSE OF BACTERIOLOGY  
TOGETHER WITH A SCHEME OF PRACTICAL  
EXPERIMENTS ILLUSTRATING THE  
SUBJECT-MATTER

BY  
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LECTURER ON PATHOLOGY, PATHOLOGIST AND SANITARY OFFICER  
TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, LONDON

SECOND EDITION



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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

THE changes introduced into this Edition are slight, and only of such a character as to bring the work up to date. The principal subject which has come to the front since the first edition was written is the "standardisation" of disinfectants, and on this I have added a few paragraphs. I have also endeavoured to simplify the directions for practical work at the end of the volume.

F. W. ANDREWES.

*April 1907.*

## PREFACE

THIS little book owes its origin to a practical class which I conducted in the summer vacation of 1902 for some of the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It is an expansion of the lectures and practical work of which that class consisted, and I have been induced to publish it because there seems to be no elementary book which deals with the bacteriological aspects of disinfection in a systematic manner. Sterilisation and disinfection play so important a part in modern medicine, surgery, obstetrics, and public health, that their principles require to be understood by those who would practise them intelligently. They are problems in physics and chemistry applied to bacteriology, and can only be grasped from this point of view. The majority of those who are called upon to practise them have neither time nor opportunity for a complete course of bacteriological study, but it is not a difficult thing for any teacher to devise a short practical course of laboratory instruction which shall effectively teach the essential principles of disinfection. I have endeavoured in these pages to set forth the outlines of such a course. The book is written for those who know no bacteriology, but who need sufficient acquaintance



with its principles and methods to be able to understand what they are doing when they attempt to carry out processes of disinfection. I have endeavoured to keep it within a small compass by excluding all that does not immediately bear upon this one subject. I am very conscious of the imperfect manner in which I have carried out the task, but I trust that the book may be of some service not only to nurses, for whom in the first place it has been written, but also to practitioners who have no opportunity for a regular course in bacteriology, and even to those of the general public who may take an interest in such matters as are discussed.

I am responsible for the majority of the illustrations, which are, for the most part, frankly diagrammatic, though drawn from actual specimens. I have to express my thanks to Messrs. Baird and Tatlock for permission to introduce some half-dozen of their illustrations, and to Messrs. Manlove, Alliott and Co. for the figure of the Washington-Lyon Steam Disinfector. It is also my pleasant duty to acknowledge the help I have received from Dr. K. J. P. Orton in discussing many chemical questions, and from Mr. George E. Gask, F.R.C.S., especially in the lesson on Surgical Disinfection, and, above all, to thank Dr. E. Klein, F.R.S., from whom I received my teaching in bacteriology, not only for the kindly letter subjoined, but for much wise counsel and encouragement in the preparation of the book.

F. W. ANDREWES.

*June 1903.*

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, E.C.

MY DEAR ANDREWES,

I have read these pages with the greatest interest. They appear to me to offer in a small compass and in simple and concise description all that is known and worth knowing of the why and wherefore of "Disinfection."

Every nurse and every person who is brought in contact with the sick-room will from this book be able to gather a most useful, correct, and intelligible account of the manner of preventing contagion and of neutralising and destroying contagia.

Not only nurses, but I think to an equal degree medical practitioners, will be able to derive greater benefit from your book than from many other more extensive works, encumbered by a vast amount of detail, which may be useful to the bacteriologist but is hardly required or understood by the general medical practitioner. I sincerely wish your book the best success.

Believe me, yours sincerely,

E. KLEIN.

