

# **DISSECTION METHODS AND GUIDES**

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Dissection Methods and Guides by David Gregg Metheny

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BY

**DAVID GREGG METHENY**

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TO  
**J. England Whitaker, M. A., M. B. (London)**

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH  
LECTURER ON ANATOMY, SURGEON'S HALL, EDINBURGH

This small Manual  
is affectionately and respectfully  
**Dedicated**  
by one of his former Pupils, the Author





## INTRODUCTION

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THIS book is intended to bridge the gap that exists between the descriptive text-book and the dissecting table. It is designed for use in conjunction with a text-book, but it is not to supplant it in any way. In order that it may be used in connection with any text-book or atlas, both the old and the new anatomical names have been given. If the instructions seem to be too minute, it should be remembered that the student's first effort may happen to be that very dissection; therefore nothing has been left to chance. Everything that a student could reasonably be expected to do in any well-equipped dissecting room has been carefully explained. Some of the dissections are original, and all of them have been carefully selected with a view to their being well within the capacity of the average student to perform.

The real ability of a practising physician or surgeon must often depend on a true knowledge of human anatomy.

Anatomy that has merely been memorized can only be of service in passing examinations. Such anatomy is speedily forgotten, and can never be of any real value.

To be of real service, anatomy must be remembered not only by the mind, but also by the eye and the hand. Therefore the eye, hand, and mind should simultaneously be trained in the recognition of the appearance, shape, texture, relative size, relative position, and the other peculiarities of the many various structures of the human body. Some of this can be learned at bedside and operating table, but it all should have been thoroughly learned long before that, and it can be thoroughly learned only in the dissecting room. The great majority of students find in the dissecting room their only opportunity of gaining that mastery of anatomy which will make it their servant in after life; therefore it cannot be too strongly urged that the entire body be dissected conscientiously and thoroughly.

Whatever else the student may gain, the main object in doing a dissection is to so prepare a region that its component structures may be studied to advantage. It is the dissection, rather than the book, that should be studied.

Mutilation teaches nothing and ruins a region for subsequent study, while a dissection in which the structures have been carefully cleaned and preserved may be of vast service.

A dissection, therefore, should be in the best possible condition for study. The student may never have another such opportunity. It is not reasonable to

expect a tyro to show the judgment of an expert in planning a dissection, and the unguided effort may be disastrous. Surely it is safer not to leave too much to chance, and, still better, to make sure that the student will have a good, clean dissection. This book has been written in the hope that it may help and encourage the student in the making of good, clean dissections which will show all of the important structures without ruining the part for subsequent work.

D. G. METHENY.

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