

**OEDEMA; A STUDY OF THE
PHYSIOLOGY AND THE
PATHOLOGY OF WATER
ABSORPTION BY THE LIVING
ORGANISM**

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Oedema; A Study of the Physiology and the Pathology of Water Absorption by the Living Organism by Martin H. Fischer

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MARTIN H. FISCHER

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CEDEMA

A STUDY OF THE PHYSIOLOGY AND THE PATHOLOGY OF
WATER ABSORPTION BY THE LIVING ORGANISM

BY

MARTIN H. FISCHER

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CEDEMA.

A STUDY OF THE PHYSIOLOGY AND THE PATEOLOGY OF
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I. THE PROBLEM.

THE pages that follow concern themselves with a problem in clinical pathology which upon its face bears every evidence of simplicity, which in essence no doubt is as simple as it looks, but which has nevertheless yielded small and unsatisfactory returns to the men who have labored toward its solution. A moment's reflection may show why this has been the case.

The problem of cedema—the problem of the presence of abnormally large amounts of water in tissues and tissue spaces—is essentially only a phase of that greater problem: Why protoplasm holds any water at all, and why it holds under normal circumstances so nearly constant an amount. It is easily seen why an interest in cedema should have overshadowed the greater and really simpler problem, for cedema has a human interest that is entirely lacking to the question of why protoplasm generally holds water. That attempts should in consequence have been made to answer the question of cedema first is not surprising. The ways and means adopted may, however, well serve as an example of the short-cut methods which clinicians and pathologists have only too often adopted in order to obtain light, and with disastrous results. Since cedema constitutes a pathological state