

**MANUAL OF VITAL
FUNCTION TESTING
METHODS AND
THEIR INTERPRETATION**

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Manual of vital function testing methods and their interpretation by Wilfred M. Barton

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WILFRED M. BARTON

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BY

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TO DR. GEORGE M. KOBER, DEAN OF THE
GEORGETOWN MEDICAL SCHOOL, THIS LITTLE
BOOK IS DEDICATED, AS A MODEST TOKEN OF
APPRECIATION OF HIS UNSELFISH DEVOTION TO
OUR SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL.

C. K. BRIDGE

840643

PREFACE

THERE should always be some valid reason for writing a new book, especially a medical book. My reason for writing, or perhaps to express it more accurately, for compiling this work, is, that the information that it contains is scattered quite broadly thro a wide and extensive medical literature, that may not be readily accessible to all, and which has never, so far as I know, been collected together in book form.

Inasmuch as every progressive physician and surgeon at the present day is making more or less frequent use of the different functional tests, to determine the efficiency of vital organs, it occurred to me that to collect them all in one volume, together with the necessary data whereby they might be intelligibly interpreted, might prove to be useful, particularly to the busy practitioner.

The following work, which is an effort to carry out that idea, includes only the tests for so called vital functions, namely those applied to the liver, kidneys, heart, pancreas, and ductless glands. To go beyond this and take up the functional tests of all the organs, such as the eye, ear, nervous system, etc., would be to exceed the legitimate field of true function testing and to encroach upon the well-trodden fields of general semiology and diagnosis.

I hope the book may prove to be useful and convenient to all who are interested in this fascinating and ever-developing field of clinical pathology.

It is a matter of which American physicians may well be proud that the most substantial and brilliant progress in the development of tests of organic function, particularly in reference to the kidneys and liver, has been brought about by the assiduous efforts of some of their own fellow countrymen.

In the chapter on heart I have received valued assistance from my friend and colleague, Dr. Thos. S. Lee.

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