

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
STUDY OF CLINICAL MEDICINE:
BEING A GUIDE TO THE
INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE FOR
THE USE OF STUDENTS**

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An Introduction to the Study of Clinical Medicine: Being a Guide to the Investigation of Disease
for the Use of Students by Octavius Sturges

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CLINICAL MEDICINE

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BEING A
GUIDE TO THE INVESTIGATION OF DISEASE
FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS

BY
OCTAVIUS STURGES, M.D. CANTAB.
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN TO THE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL
FORMERLY REGISTRAR OF MEDICAL CASES AT ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL



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PREFACE.

THIS Manual assumes no more than to point out to students a method—not the only, or necessarily the best, method—of interrogating patients at the bedside. It goes upon the supposition that there are certain remarks and suggestions which, while they hardly fall within the province of set treatises, may yet be usefully interposed between the book description and the study of the living thing.

It is the essence of my plan that the student should be credited with the knowledge he already possesses, and not have rehearsed again what he may be fairly supposed to have learnt already. The notes appended to certain portions of the examination—and especially to the part relating to the Chest—are, unfortunately, of some length, but I have nowhere forgotten the design with which I first started, and, while endeavouring to

accompany the pupil in each step of the inquiry, have been always studious to avoid the direct teaching of the text-books.

With the tendencies of the present day there is need, I believe, to lay stress upon the fact, that it is less by the use of subtle arts and intricate instruments than in the exercise of common observation, directed by method, that the phenomena of disease are revealed. Without dwelling, therefore, upon the refinements of the subject, I have endeavoured all the while to lead up to them, and to encourage the learner by his early success, and the acquisition of the rough outline, to proceed further to fill in the details.

Slight as the work is, I cannot but be sensible, on reviewing it, that it falls far short of the intention with which it first sets out. I can only hope that its defects may be such as admit of remedy, and that they may be partly excused on the ground of the novelty of the plan and the wide range of the subject.

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