A MANUAL OF AUSCULTATION AND PERCUSSION: EMBRACING THE PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND HEART, AND OF THORACIC ANEURISM

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PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND HEART, AND OF THORACIC ANEURISM.

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THIRD EDITION, REVISED.

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

In the revision of this manual for a third edition, it has been deemed advisable, as in the previous editions, to restrict its scope to auscultation and percussion considered chiefly with reference to their practical application, and to present these with as much condensation as possible. In the present edition, the modes by which pulmonary signs may be reproduced in the lungs removed from the body, and by artificial illustrations, have been briefly stated. The author has also introduced some practical points kindly suggested by his friend and colleague, Professor Janeway. The speedy exhaustion of the second edition may, perhaps, be fairly regarded as evidence, not alone of the usefulness of the work to the medical student and practitioner, but of an increasing appreciation of the importance of the study of auscultation and percussion, as well as of the analytical method by which the study is facilitated, and knowledge of the physical signs made readily available in diagnosis.

New York, March, 1883.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THIS work contains the substance of the lessons which the author has for many years given, in connection with practical instruction in auscultation and percussion, to private classes composed of medical students and practitioners.

In his courses of practical instruction his plan has been, 1st. To simplify the subject as much as possible, avoiding all needless refinements; 2d. To consider the distinctive characters of the different physical signs as determined, not by analogies, nor by deductions from physics, but by analysis, and as based especially on variations in the intensity, pitch, and quality of sounds; 3d. To impress the fact that the significance of physical signs relates to certain physical conditions, and the importance of a familiar acquaintance with these conditions, as well as with the distinctive characters of the signs by which they are represented; 4th. To enforce the necessity of sufficient study of the physical conditions and the signs of health, as a *sine qua non* for success in the study of the physical diagnosis of diseases; and, 5th. To waive discussion of the mechanism of signs, when-

ever this is open for discussion, taking the ground that our knowledge of the significance of signs rests solely on the constancy of their connection with the physical conditions which they represent.

This plan, of which the utility has been confirmed by continued experience, has been followed throughout the present volume, and the favor with which the work has been received has seemed to show that no radical changes were required. In revising it for a second edition, therefore, the author has confined himself to such additions as seemed likely to render it more useful not only to students engaged in the practical study of the subject, but also to practitioners as a hand-book for ready reference.

NEW YORK, January, 1880.

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