

**A GUIDE TO
AMERICAN MEDICAL
STUDENTS IN EUROPE**

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A Guide to American Medical Students in Europe by Henry Hun

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HENRY HUN

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AMERICAN MEDICAL
STUDENTS IN EUROPE**

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A GUIDE

TO

AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS

IN

EUROPE

BY

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PREFACE.

EVERY year a large number of Americans go to Europe to complete their medical studies. Unfortunately the great majority of these students have very little definite information about the different universities or about the way in which medicine is taught abroad, and on this account they lose much valuable time in getting to work. The object of this book is to furnish this information, and to give some assistance to the student at the outset of his foreign study, which is the time that he stands most in need of aid; and it is hoped that the book may also be of some interest to medical men in this country who wish to know how medicine is taught in Europe, although in order that the Guide might be of such a size as to be of real use to the student, it was necessary to omit much which might be of interest to the general practitioner. For a large part of the information in the book I am indebted to the kindness of many friends.

ALBANY, July, 1883.

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A GUIDE
TO
AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS IN EUROPE.

MEDICAL students constitute the only class of students who in any considerable number follow the good old German custom of supplementing their regular course of study (Lehrjahre) by a season of travel (Wanderjahre) for the purpose of seeing how people in other places perform that work which is to occupy the remainder of their lives. Most of the students who graduate at our medical colleges feel the need of more clinical work before commencing the practice of medicine, and many of them go to some other medical centre to study for a time. Besides the medical knowledge which a student acquires in his foreign tour, the contact with different men and different customs broadens his mind and improves his judgment, so that he becomes a better adviser in those questions not strictly medical which it often falls to the lot of the medical attendant to answer.

Some students go to New York, or the other large cities of America, but by far the greater number go to Europe, and especially to Germany. The reason for this is not difficult to understand. In our large cities, and especially in New York, there are certain clinics and opportunities of study which are probably unsurpassed in the world; but there is, undoubtedly,

no place where a student can attend so many excellent clinics with so little loss of time, or where he can so well train his eyes and hands in methods of diagnosis and treatment, as in Vienna; while, if he is less anxious for clinical study, and wishes to train himself in laboratory work and methods, he can nowhere accomplish this so well as in Germany. In order to get the full advantage of foreign work, it is necessary that the student should be well grounded in the medical sciences and in the observation of disease before he goes abroad. Study in Europe does not at all replace the hospital work which it is desirable that a student should have after he has completed his studies in the medical school. A house physician or surgeon in a hospital gets a practical acquaintance with disease, and an opportunity to follow its course from day to day, as well as a self-confidence in treating patients which he does not get from attending clinics and seeing patients in whose treatment he has no responsibility nor concern.

The circumstances of each individual student must determine whether he shall go abroad immediately on the completion of his studies, or whether he shall wait till he has been in practice a few years and discovers what he really most needs to learn. Usually on graduation a student is too young to practise, and he can never spare the time for a trip to Europe as well as then, nor will his mind ever be so ready to acquire new ideas. If, after having been in practice for several years, he finds it desirable to study some special subject, he will be able to go abroad and study it to much better advantage on account of his previous medical work in Europe. The length of time that he should spend abroad must also depend on the circumstances and needs of each individual student. If he has graduated at a good school, and has served a term in a hospital, and wishes to fit himself for general practice, then eighteen months, or two years, are enough for his foreign work, and all the time that he spends