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HANDBOOK  
OF  
PHYSICAL  
DIAGNOSIS  
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GUTTMANN

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SYDENHAM  
SOCIETY  
1879.



A  
HANDBOOK  
OF  
PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS.

COMPRISING THE THROAT, THORAX, AND ABDOMEN.

BY  
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TRANSLATED FROM THE THIRD GERMAN EDITION

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HANDBOOK

PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS

OF THE THORACIC AND ABDOMINAL ORGANS

BY

WALTER DILLON FLEMING, M.D.

LONDON:  
PRINTED BY JAS. TRUSCOTT AND SON,  
Suffolk Lane, City.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE design of this handbook is to present a concise description of the various methods pursued in the clinical examination of the thoracic and abdominal organs in health and disease, and an estimate of the diagnostic value of the results so obtained; the examination of the Larynx is treated of in an Appendix.

The general plan of the work, both as regards the order in which the different methods of exploring each organ are discussed and the account of the conditions likely to be met with, is naturally that of a systematic, scientific inquiry.

Our description, however, particularly when dealing with the purely physical methods of examination, will be found to vary considerably in form and fulness, according as groups of similar phenomena, belonging possibly to different diseases, do or do not admit of being explained by *common* causes; in the latter case a *detailed* account of the symptoms has been given. Whenever the nature of the subject permitted, I have endeavoured to preserve a certain uniform order also in the arrangement of details, taking up first the signs obtained by each method of exploration, then their causes, and lastly the physiological and pathological conditions, and the diseases, in which they occur. In this way only was it practicable to include within our relatively narrow limits the large number of pathological phenomena elicited by the various modes of clinical examination. That an account of this kind, indeed, should not be absolutely complete, that it should fail to take cognisance of *every* deviation of the symptoms from the fundamental pathological type, is unavoidable. Though in the course of a long official connection with the Poliklinik of the University of Berlin I have been enabled to lay up a large

store of observations of this nature, I felt that to introduce them into such a work as the present would be as injudicious as it was unnecessary, as it is only when viewed in relation to the other characteristic symptoms of the affection under consideration that such facts retain their pathological or diagnostic interest; apart from the special case in hand they would not merely burden the text, but the whole work would lose in uniformity and compactness more than it could possibly gain in the value of its contents or in completeness. In the domain of diagnosis, as in that of every other subject of study, the principal object to be kept in view is the arriving at a knowledge of the essential phenomena; these and their physio-pathological causes once known, any departure from the type in particular cases is easily recognised and understood. These considerations have been borne in mind in the preparation of this work. I trust that my task has been, at least to a certain extent, successfully accomplished.

DR. PAUL GUTTMANN.

BERLIN, *Sept.*, 1871.

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

THE third edition differs from its predecessors in many respects; not only have important additions and alterations been made in most of the sections, but large parts of several of the principal chapters have been completely re-written. Special care has been devoted to the arrangement of subjects and the order in which their details are discussed, as I have reason to believe, from public criticism, that it is to this feature that the former editions of my handbook owe their favourable reception in Germany and abroad.\* May the same good fortune attend the present edition.

DR. PAUL GUTTMANN.

BERLIN, *Oct.*, 1877.

\* Several translations of this work are in circulation on the Continent. The first edition has been translated into Italian by Dr. Clodomiro Bonfigli, Ferrara (Milan, 1872); into Russian by Drs. Nikolaj and Chomjakoff (Kasan, 1872); a second time into Russian by Dr. Wischnewski (Moscow, 1872); and into Spanish by Dr. Luis Góngora (Seville, 1873). The second edition has been translated into French by Dr. F. L. Hahn (Paris, 1877); into Polish by Drs. Kremer and Pareński (Warsaw, 1877); and into Italian by Dr. Bonfigli (Milan, 1877).

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## A HANDBOOK

OF

## PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS.

## INTRODUCTION.

IN the examination of the thoracic and abdominal organs, the methods employed are almost exclusively of a physical character; this is certainly the case with reference to the exploration of the respiratory and circulatory apparatuses, and in part also to that of the abdominal organs. Strictly speaking, the term *physical methods of examination* is applied only to the practice of Auscultation and Percussion; in the wider sense, however, it includes also Inspection and Palpation, as these latter frequently give as direct and valuable information as the two former methods, particularly with regard to certain of the physical properties of the internal organs, such as their consistence, increase in size, and the presence within them of air, fluid, &c. With equal propriety the term may be made to embrace the estimation of the temperature of the body by means of the thermometer, and the measurement of the shape and respiratory movements of the thorax, of the vital capacity of the lungs (Spirometry), of the respiratory pressure (Pneumatometry), and of the arterial pulse (Sphygmography), all these proceedings, the most important of which is Thermometry, being merely delicate aids to Inspection and Palpation, yielding precisely the same kind of information, but with much greater, even with mathematical, exactness. If to these methods of investigation be added the examination of the secretions and excretions of the body, and in some circumstances also that of the blood, we shall have before us all the means which are usually employed in the exploration of the thoracic and abdominal organs, and which we propose to describe in the following pages.

It is obviously unnecessary to make use of all of these methods