

AL  
ES

---

THE  
MEDICAL  
SCIENCES

---

I

Ref.  
R111  
.R4  
1900  
v.1





BIBLIOTECA



A REFERENCE HANDBOOK  
OF  
THE MEDICAL SCIENCES

EMBRACING THE ENTIRE RANGE OF  
SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL MEDICINE  
AND  
ALLIED SCIENCE

BY VARIOUS WRITERS

A NEW EDITION, COMPLETELY REVISED AND REWRITTEN

EDITED BY ALBERT H. BUCK, M.D.  
NEW YORK CITY

VOLUME I.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS CHROMOLITHOGRAPHS AND FOUR HUNDRED  
AND NINETY-EIGHT FINE HALF-TONE AND WOOD ENGRAVINGS

---

NEW YORK  
WILLIAM WOOD AND COMPANY  
MDCCC



Ref  
R111  
R4  
1900  
v.1

COPYRIGHT, 1900,  
BY WILLIAM WOOD AND COMPANY

## PREFACE.

THE first edition of the REFERENCE HANDBOOK was begun in 1884 and was completed in 1887. In 1894 it was believed that the work might be brought up to date by the publication of a supplementary volume, and accordingly such a volume was issued. During the past year the same need for alterations and additions again made itself felt, and the question then arose, Shall we issue a second supplementary volume? This question was considered very carefully in all its bearings, and the conclusion was soon reached that the publication of a second supplementary volume would be unwise owing to the fact that every new subscriber to the work would be obliged to purchase the original volumes, in which the proportion of useless text would be constantly increasing with the lapse of time. Accordingly measures were taken with a view to the complete reconstruction of the HANDBOOK. The plan of procedure which we adopted was the following: All the articles of the existing nine volumes were collected together in groups, each of which represented a special department of medical knowledge. Each such group of articles was then intrusted to a competent specialist in that particular branch, with instructions to determine which among these numerous articles were worthy of being republished (with or without revision on the part of the authors), which should be fused together and published under a single title, and which should be discarded altogether. By this process it was hoped and believed that we should learn what portions of the original edition were still valuable, and what therefore might be utilized in the reconstruction of the new. When this preliminary part of the work had been completed it was found that we could not possibly hope to retain more than one-half of the actual text of the first edition. This discovery illustrates well how many and how great are the changes which have taken place in medical knowledge during the past fifteen years.

After our expert advisers had determined to what extent we could advantageously utilize the material contained in the older edition, they undertook the further task of furnishing lists of the different topics upon which, if the entire field of medical knowledge were to be covered with some degree of completeness, articles would have to be written. The names of the men who have performed this double task and who have made it possible for me to bring the rebuilding of this great structure to a successful issue, are mentioned in the accompanying list. To one and all of them I desire to express my grateful thanks, for I recognize fully that without their efficient aid I should not be able to cope successfully with the task of deciding what shall be the contents of the new series of volumes.

Finally, I desire to acknowledge the generous manner in which the publishers have responded to all my demands upon them. When they have been convinced of its wisdom, any suggestion from myself or from one of our authors has been by them promptly adopted.

New York, September 20, 1900.

ALBERT H. BUCK.