

Preface

This revised edition of *'An Introduction to Animal Physiology'* is intended for students of Agriculture Science and as an introductory text in physiology for veterinary students. The main emphasis is on the two areas of physiology that are of most importance in animal production: nutrition and digestion and the reproductive processes. The book has been brought thoroughly up to date taking care to preserve one of its essential features, which is simplicity of presentation. The description of the nervous system and endocrine glands emphasizes their participation in control systems that regulate bodily functions and maintain a constant internal environment. The nutrition of farm animals and the digestive processes of ruminants and non-ruminants are given special emphasis. Recent advances in reproductive physiology have given a better understanding of topics such as nourishment of the fetus and the mechanisms initiating birth. These are now described in the chapter on reproduction together with a description of the reproductive cycle and its endocrine control.

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