

Preface

Our preface to the twelfth edition (1971) referred to the extensive revision needed to update the book since its predecessor of 1965.

Eleven years on, the incorporation of the results of morphological and functional studies of ever increasing sophistication has necessitated an almost entirely new book. Text and figures have been radically altered.

We have preserved the format of twelve parts dealing with the major 'systems'. The *interrelation* of the several systems, which characterizes mammalian and, of course, human physiology, has been documented by numerous cross-references to the relevant pages, but our purpose has been to underline the integration of physiological functions which characterizes the performance of the body as a whole in health. Disruption of such integration causes symptoms and signs revealed by Nature's own experiments in dysgenesis and in disease in general; indeed, such have often shown the pathway for appropriate experiments to define the sequence of such a dissolution of the corporate society of the body tissues.

The inclusion of modern data and their current interpretation has required a pruning of accounts of pioneer experiments which provided the foundation on which modern work continues to build. The present day student whether medical, dental, paraclinical, or a

so-called pure scientist is beset by university courses which now embrace a host of subjects which occupy time, energy, and thought. Some of these subjects have physiology as a parent; none of them is irrelevant to the development of an educated and sentient student. Nevertheless our awareness of such preoccupations have led us to present references mainly to reviews and books rather than to original papers. Reviews in any case refer to original papers and the interested and devoted student can read them and discuss them with his or her teacher.

As before we thank our colleagues for allowing us to use illustrations and for help and comments on the manuscript. Publishers of books and journals have been similarly generous and their help is appropriately acknowledged in the legends of the figures.

We have appreciated the sterling secretarial help provided by Miss Jennifer Williams, Mrs Maureen Goodwin, and Mrs Jean Speller.

Lastly, we are most grateful to the editorial staff of the Oxford University Press for their unfailing assistance with the galleys and page proofs, and for their advice about the final format of the book.

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C.A.K.
E.N.
N.J.