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**ANDREAS VESALIUS**

BRUXELLENSIS, SCHOLAE MEDICORUM PATAVINAE PROFESSOR

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HISTORY OF PHYSIOLOGY  
DURING THE SIXTEENTH, SEVEN-  
TEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH  
CENTURIES

BY

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER

CAMBRIDGE  
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1924

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***To* DR L. C. LANE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**AND TO MY OTHER MANY FRIENDS OF THAT  
NEW WORLD, THE STORY OF WHOSE  
LIFE IS AS YET SO SHORT BUT  
MUST IN TIME BE SO GREAT,**

**I OFFER**

**AS A TOKEN OF MY FRIEND-  
SHIP THIS FRAGMENT OF  
THE STORY OF THE  
OLD WORLD'S  
LIFE**

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## P R E F A C E

THE following Lectures were delivered as the “Lane Lectures” at the Cooper Medical College in San Francisco in the autumn of the past year. I have here and there expanded some parts, but otherwise the Lectures now appear very much as I delivered them. I do not pretend to have given a complete history of physiology even within the period to which I have limited myself. I have chosen certain themes which seemed to me important and striking, and I have striven to develop these, leaving untold a great deal which might be told concerning other themes. I have woven into the story of ideas, the stories of the personal lives of the men who gave birth to those ideas, partly in order to add to the human interest of the tale, but also and even more so because, in most cases at least, the fruitfulness of the labours of an inquirer is largely dependent on the inquirer’s character and belongings.

I very much fear that I have allowed many mistakes in what I have written to go unnoticed and uncorrected. I may plead in excuse that historical research, perhaps above all other kinds of research, demands ample leisure, and the time which I have been able to give to the present little work has been snatched from a life broken into bits by many and varied duties. I shall be very thankful to have my mistakes pointed out.

M. FOSTER

CAMBRIDGE,  
*March 8, 1901*

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ANDREAS VESALIUS . . . . .	FRONTISPIECE