

# Walter Bradford Cannon Encyclopedia Article

## Walter Bradford Cannon

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# Contents

<a href="#">Walter Bradford Cannon Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Walter Bradford Cannon.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Walter Bradford Cannon

**1871-1945**

American physiologist who coined the word "homeostasis" to describe the conditions that maintain the constancy of the interior environment of the body. Cannon explained that homeostasis does not refer to a fixed and unchanging state but to a complex, relatively constant condition. As a physiologist, Cannon investigated the mechanisms that allow the body to maintain this state. Cannon helped to popularize ideas about physiological regulatory mechanisms through his voluminous writings, including his best-known book, *The Wisdom of the Body* (1932).