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Surgery of Trauma

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With Forewords by

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AND

SURGEONS GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE

284 Illustrations



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DEDICATED TO

the Military Surgeons of the Armed Forces of the United States of America
and to their civilian compatriots
who so ably assist their country in time of need
as well as to
the Medical Colleges furnishing the eager and able young doctors
who make it possible to offer the highest type of surgical care
to the finest young men in the world,
Our Patients
the American Fighting Men

Preface

It is the pleasant duty of the Editor to acknowledge suggestions and assistance from numerous sources. The idea of publishing a book on wound healing as a joint venture was first conceived by William R. Lovelace, 2nd, then Chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council. With suggestions from Isidor S. Ravdin and Alfred R. Shands, Jr., civilian members of the Council, the table of contents was prepared, and tentative selections of the various authors were made. The Liaison Committee, composed of Col. Sheldon S. Brownton, U.S.A.F. (MC), of the Office of the Chairman of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, Capt. Charles R. Moon, U.S.N. (MC), Surgical Consultant for the Navy, and Col. Oscar S. Reeder, U.S.A.F. (MC), Orthopedic Consultant for the Air Force, gave material assistance and advice throughout preparation of the book. The Surgeons General of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, the entire Medical Policy Coun-

cil and Melvin A. Casberg, its chairman, have given enthusiastic support and cooperation, without which little could have been accomplished.

The Editor is deeply grateful to all the authors who, without exception, have done a splendid piece of work, contributing their own time as well as stenographic work and illustrations. The Editor also wishes to thank Mrs. Edith Meyers, Mrs. Nora Lou Price, Miss Angelina Davis and Mrs. Delores Garrett, who have assisted in the voluminous correspondence and typing necessary in completing the book.

Finally, thanks are due the Publisher, and especially Mr. Walter Kahoe, Director of the Medical Department of J. B. Lippincott Company, for his vision in seeing the possibilities and for his zeal in bringing the book to fruition.

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Foreword

Living as we are in an era of international tension in which there exists the potential of mass injury to the civilian as well as to the armed forces, there is developing an increasing interest in the medical problems related to trauma. Though the basic principles of medicine are universal in their relationship to the therapy of trauma, nevertheless the problems of war or catastrophe wounds frequently necessitate a certain adjustment of application to conform with such uncontrollable variables as the numerical mass of those injured, the pattern of evacuation of the wounded, or the availability and the qualifications of medical personnel. Such an adaptation as this resulted in the issuing of orders during World War II that all primary amputations of the extremities must conform to the guillotine operative procedure. At that time many surgeons felt that this order enforced a censorship restricting their professional judgment; however, in the presence of the variables mentioned above this medical edict was considered to be necessary, and with the passage of time amputation morbidity and mortality rates were lowered.

Unfortunately, medical lessons learned at considerable cost in the grim classroom of combat have been forgotten all too soon and of necessity have been restudied under

great difficulty and at the sacrifice of human lives. Partially responsible for this apparent postwar regression in professional military medicine has been the fact that for the most part scientific discoveries have not been collected, analyzed and presented in an intellectually digestible form but rather have been buried in a mass of information scattered throughout our medical publications and requiring far too much time and effort for the average busy physician to study and assimilate. It was in an effort to correct this situation that the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council sponsored the publication of this volume wherein numerous contributors have pooled their knowledge and recorded a wealth of medical experience applicable to the therapy of war wounds. Col. Warner F. Bowers and the authors are to be complimented on their collective efforts and should experience considerable personal gratification from the knowledge that these contributions most certainly will raise the level of military professional standards and improve the lot of those unfortunate enough to sustain war wounds.

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Foreword

There long has been a need for a correlated presentation of the many facts relating to basic wound healing, together with the clinical application in trauma to the various organs and systems. This volume was planned to fulfill such a mission. The editor, the editing committee and the authors all are outstanding authorities in their field, some of whom acquired extensive experience in World War II, while others have served as Civilian Consultants to the Overseas Theaters, and still others write from a rich experience accumulated in the present war in Korea. It is anticipated that this authoritative treatise will be valuable to young doctors entering the military service, to older officers attending the various Field Service Schools, as well as to those in residency training in any surgical

field. Furthermore, the book should be of great value to civilian physicians in need of training in the surgery of trauma for civil defense. Lastly, such a text should be welcomed by the medical schools now giving a larger place in their curricula to the surgery of trauma. These essentially are the ideas motivating the preparation of the book, and we take pleasure in presenting it to students of the surgery of trauma as a monument to the distinct advances being made in this important field.

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