

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL 1970



THE
MEDICAL ANNUAL

A YEAR BOOK OF TREATMENT
WITH A PRACTITIONERS' INDEX

Editors

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THE MEDICAL ANNUAL 1970

INTRODUCTION

BY THE EDITORS

It is wise for the editors of a publication like the MEDICAL ANNUAL occasionally to take stock of the position, and consider whether it is fulfilling its purpose. The ANNUAL is read by doctors in almost all branches of the profession. It forms a reference book in which, over a period of a few years, a note can be found on almost any subject which affects the doctor. From the reviews the reader can select in the references those articles in the original which are likely to give him any more detailed information which he requires. For the general practitioner here is a means of obtaining up-to-date knowledge of problems in which he is specially interested, or about conditions from which his patients may be suffering. For the specialist it may draw attention to publications in his own subject which he has overlooked in the present maze of medical literature, or to articles in specialties closely related to his own. In addition there are articles of more general interest on subjects which should be within the ken of every doctor, and which in the case of legal matters may save him from many pitfalls.

In addition to the reviews, each year there are included a few special articles giving either a summary of present knowledge on subjects of wide interest to doctors, or which concern themselves with the growing points of medicine written by experts in the field. Looking back at earlier numbers of the MEDICAL ANNUAL, it is interesting to note the impact which the major advances of this century have had, and the notes on them which have been recorded at the time.

CONTRIBUTORS.—Each year we lose one or two of our contributors and their place is taken by others whose different style makes certain that a dull uniformity of presentation is avoided. While this edition of the MEDICAL ANNUAL was in the press, we learned with sorrow of the death of Professor Harold Fullerton, who has contributed the section on Blood Diseases for many years. He will be widely and sadly missed. On a happier note, the Editors were delighted to see Sir Francis Avery Jones honoured in the Birthday List. He has served the MEDICAL ANNUAL with great distinction for many years.

Dr. Bignall, whose retirement we regret, has handed over the chapter on the Medical Aspects of Respiratory Disease to Dr. K. M. Citron,

and thus the association with the Brompton Hospital is happily maintained. Dr. R. M. Mason has unfortunately found it necessary to give up the section on Chronic Rheumatic Diseases, but we have been lucky in his successor, Dr. Allan St. J. Dixon, of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, a well-known authority on the subject.

Mr. W. M. Capper, after about twenty years, has unfortunately felt unable to continue his section on the Surgery of the Upper Alimentary Canal; we wish him complete restoration to health and a happy retirement. His place has been taken by Sir James Fraser, Professor of Surgery at the University of Southampton, thus providing a link with this new medical school.

Professor G. Slaney, of Birmingham, who has wide interests, has taken on the section of General Surgery, a subject now much curtailed by the specialties but covering some fields such as infections, which are of interest to all surgeons.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.—Obesity is one of the major problems of the 'Affluent Society', and Dr. Trevor Silverstone's comprehensive review of the condition is both timely and valuable. We are delighted too to be able to present the special article by Surgeon Commander Barnard on Decompression Illness, which embodies much original observation and research on a disorder by no means limited to naval personnel.

Once again the Editors have looked overseas for one of the special articles, that by Mr. B. G. Barratt-Boyes, of Auckland, New Zealand. The author has adapted and improved the technical procedures devised elsewhere for the replacement of diseased heart valves, and has established a unit at Green Lane Hospital which is second to none in the results which have been achieved in these difficult operations. This is a masterly review of an advancing subject.

Hyperbaric Oxygen as a means of therapy became a practical proposition with the application of engineering techniques some fifteen years ago. Professor G. Smith, of Aberdeen, has been one of the pioneers, and he gives us information about its present applications and limitations. Its value in association with radiotherapy for the treatment of malignant tumours is still in the balance, but we must await the results of further controlled trials. In the section on Radiotherapy Professor P. B. Kunkler reports on trials which suggest some improvement in the outcome of mouth and larynx cancers but none with bladder or lung tumours.

ALIMENTARY DISEASE.—The place of vagotomy in the management of peptic ulcer is still not defined, and Sir James Fraser discusses the complications affecting the oesophagus and the intestine which may follow this operation. The place of surgery in disease of the large intestine expands as these operations become safer with more careful preparation and improvements in technique. With carcinoma it has long been the only means of cure, but both Sir Francis Avery Jones and Professor J. C. Goligher discuss some of the indications in the inflammatory diseases, ulcerative colitis and diverticulitis. Trauma,

mostly due to road accidents, is becoming increasingly important and Mr. R. E. Horton reviews the subject of injury to the liver, while there is a further note on abdominal injuries in the section on Children's Diseases.

One of the most interesting developments of recent years is the recognition of the hepatitis-associated (Australia) antigen, and the present position is fully reviewed by Professor S. Sherlock.

ANAESTHESIA.—In his review Dr. B. A. Sellick records the different responses to certain drugs found in patients in Britain and North America. No definite explanation is given, but this fact must be recognized when making comparisons between reports from the opposite sides of the Atlantic. He also refers to the risks of aspiration of gastric contents in anaesthesia for obstetrics, as noted in the *Report on Maternal Deaths in England and Wales*.

BLOOD DISEASES.—This section must be one of the last articles written by the late Professor H. W. Fullerton. He reviews the interesting condition of micro-angiopathic haemolytic anaemia, which has gained recognition largely through the studies of Professor J. V. Dacie and his colleagues. His note on antilymphocytic serum will be of interest to many outside the field of haematology.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE.—Dr. John Hamer reviews once again the evergreen problems of coronary artery disease and hypertension. Mr. M. V. Braimbridge's contribution deals also with cardiac ischaemia, and its surgical treatment by internal mammary artery implant.

Among other subjects, Mr. H. H. G. Eastcott records the introduction of a ready, quick, and reliable flowmeter as a guide to the management of peripheral vascular disease.

CHILDREN'S DISEASES.—Interest in congenital defects has grown within recent years, partly because of the frequency with which they cause foetal and infant deaths and partly because paediatric surgeons are developing techniques for their relief. Dr. A. D. M. Jackson's survey is therefore doubly valuable.

Professor A. W. Wilkinson gives an account of the place of surgical treatment in the management of hepatoblastoma and sacrococcygeal teratoma, but perhaps the most important part of his article is that which deals with acute abdominal pain in children.

EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT DISEASES.—Bell's Palsy remains something of an enigma, but Mr. K. Harrison's contribution contains a review of the subject and guidance on its management. He also deals at some length with the complications of laryngeal and tracheal intubation.

ENDOCRINE GLANDS.—The difficulties in the diagnosis of hyperparathyroidism are widely recognized, and the notes on this problem by Dr. Oliver Garrod will undoubtedly be valuable to many physicians.

The review of the incidence of cancer in solitary thyroid nodules by Professor I. D. A. Johnston is also of great importance. Figures for

this change, varying from zero to 25 per cent, are quoted from the United States and the inaccuracy of clinical diagnosis is stressed.

EYE DISEASES.—Professor C. I. Phillips's discussion of the Holmes-Adie or myotonic pupil is a most valuable contribution, and he also gives an account of the improved equipment for ophthalmic microsurgery.

GENERAL PRACTICE.—Dr. John Hunt and Dr. Michael Linnett have interesting comments to make upon practice organization, and particularly upon nurses working with general practitioners. Their observations on education for general practice and the need for and scope of vocational training are of great interest.

GERIATRICS.—One of the most difficult problems and one of increasing importance is the assessment of prognosis in patients who have had strokes. All those who are concerned with this will find Dr. A. N. Exton-Smith's review of great value; so too are his observations on the problems of urinary incontinence in old age.

GYNAECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS.—The increasing problem of teenage pregnancies is fully discussed by Mr. H. Gordon in his article this year. Ethical, social, and clinical problems are involved, but the failure of basic education in the matter of sex is largely responsible and the blame for this falls as much on the parents as it does on the educational authorities.

Another paper of considerable interest which he notes is the observation that rubella has its influence on the foetus even when it is acquired in the seventh month of pregnancy.

GENERAL MEDICINE.—There are several valuable reviews in Dr. Havard's section. He performs a useful service in drawing attention to procaine-amide-induced systemic erythematosis, and his succinct account of the immunological deficiency syndromes will be welcomed by many physicians who have found it difficult to remember the details of this complicated group of disorders.

MENTAL DISEASE.—Dr. J. L. Gibbons has an interesting section on the Psychiatric Complications of Surgery. It deals particularly with observations in cardiac surgery, and this is a problem which is becoming progressively more important. His notes too on Psychiatry and Endocrinology are of practical value to all who have to deal with these patients.

NEUROLOGY.—Dr. C. J. Earl's two main articles deal with Parkinsonism and acute infective polyneuritis. They are both apposite and of considerable interest. The second is perhaps particularly valuable, as ideas about this disorder have changed so considerably in recent years. His comments upon the phenothiazines and the extrapyramidal syndromes will also be of considerable help to the general physician who is faced with complications of this kind.

Mr. J. M. Potter reports recent work on closed arterial injuries, and the risks of air embolism during intracranial operations.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH.—Professor P. J. Lawther reminds us that agriculture is one of the country's major industries, and that mechanization has of late altered farming almost beyond recognition. Overturning of tractors is, for instance, responsible for 30–40 per cent of all accidental farm deaths and he deals in detail with the various hazards, infective and otherwise, which confront the present-day farmer.

ORTHOPAEDICS AND TRAUMATOLOGY.—Much of Professor R. Roaf's article deals with the role of surgery in the management of arthritis of major and minor joints. Hip replacement is now a well-established procedure, but in the hand and fingers surgery has an increasingly valuable place and the use of prostheses may be called for in dealing with severely diseased metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joints.

PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY.—The most important advance after antibiotics in dealing with infective disease must be the development of anti-viral chemotherapy. The difficulties of this problem are well reviewed by Professor H. Schnieden, who also discusses the few anti-viral drugs which have so far been introduced.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The importance of rubella in adults and in children is only gradually being appreciated. This has come with the recognition of the 'expanded rubella syndrome'. Recent work on this problem is fully considered by Dr. Ralph Midwinter.

RADIOTHERAPY.—In addition to his comments on hyperbaric oxygen, Professor P. B. Kunkler discusses the question of pelvic tissue tolerance and mentions the value of treatment by the betatron as compared with cobalt, for external irradiation of cervical cancer.

RESPIRATORY TRACT.—Dr. K. M. Citron and Mr. M. V. Braimbridge draw attention to the high incidence of pulmonary embolism and the distinction between the three syndromes which it causes. There is a place for embolectomy in the acute massive type, and even one for endarterectomy in the chronic type. Thrombectomy of peripheral veins is now of importance in preventing emboli, but it is better to discourage thrombosis by greater use of controlled anticoagulation.

In another review Mr. Braimbridge gives an account of the place of surgical excision in patients with metastatic tumours in the lung. He draws attention to the disappointing results so far achieved in the treatment of lung cancer by chemotherapy.

SKIN DISEASES.—Dr. S. Gold heads one of his sections somewhat apologetically 'Warts Yet Again'. His review, however, will be read with great interest by many who are not dermatologists and who will agree that there is no need to offer an apology. Of great value, too, is the full discussion of cutaneous xanthomatosis, a condition in which there has been a considerable accession of knowledge recently.

GENERAL SURGERY.—Lesions of the mammary ducts are apt to be considered of little importance unless the question of malignant disease arises, but Professor G. Slaney draws attention to their significance as a cause of minor but troublesome symptoms. In another review he discusses the importance of stress as a cause of gastro-intestinal bleeding.

TROPICAL DISEASES.—Sir Robert Drew contributes a valuable summary of current concepts of leprosy, in which all the recent important papers are well reviewed. He also has a valuable section on the effects of insect bites and stings, and, finally, in a somewhat lighter vein, a description of Kwok's 'Chinese restaurant syndrome'.

UROGENITAL TRACT.—This section contains a full review of recent work on the control of renal sodium excretion, which will be read with interest by many. A second section on the immunosuppressive treatment of nephritis is also apposite and contains a great deal of information which is normally available only to the specialist in this field.

Radio-isotopes are playing a greater part in the assessment of renal disease, and the recent advances in these techniques are reported by Mr. J. P. Mitchell. He notes also that there is now a good functional result in more than 50 per cent of cases of renal transplantation one year after operation.

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