

EDEMA

MECHANISMS AND MANAGEMENT

*A Hahnemann Symposium
on Salt and Water Retention*

Edited by

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PREFACE

This symposium on the mechanisms and therapy of edema, in which more than ninety authorities participated and which was sponsored by the Hahnemann Medical College, was designed to present a comprehensive review of the subject. The authors who participated are actively engaged in research on those clinical syndromes associated with the physiologic aberration of excess of salt and water retention. Since edema is not a problem peculiar to the specialty of Internal Medicine, investigators and clinicians from the allied specialties of pediatrics, obstetrics and surgery actively participated in this endeavor.

A review of the basic physiology bearing on water and electrolyte distribution, as it is related to edema, is presented in the initial chapters of the book in an effort to give a more intimate understanding of the individual clinical syndromes. This is followed by a review of the pharmacology and clinical use of the diuretic agents, and emphasis is placed on the most recent advances in the field of diuretic research. The direction of future research has been considered.

In the latter part of the book, the common clinical syndromes manifesting edema as a physical phenomenon are reviewed with reference to their pathophysiology and the various approaches employed in therapy. The panel discussions are included not only to fill out those areas that may not have been covered completely in the didactic papers but also to give the reader the benefit of authoritative agreements and disagreements in various phases of the subjects reviewed.

It is apparent from this review that much has been learned about the physiopathology and therapy of excess salt and water retention. It is equally apparent that there is even more that is not understood. It is hoped that the reader will develop a more comprehensive knowledge of the problem of edema and a greater understanding of the intricate physiopathology of the various clinical syndromes. Treatment then becomes a more coherent and organized effort in an area which often is fraught with a sense of frustration and futility.

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and

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