

EMERGENCY SURGERY

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DEDICATION

In humble sincerity, this volume is dedicated to that army of American surgeons who have devoted their talents, not only to the saving of human life, but as a contribution to our democratic American Way of Life; that galaxy of unhonored servants of mankind, who despite the growing materialism of our age, have plied their labors in consonance with the law of God, knowing—

*"That very law which moulds a tear,
And bids it trickle from its source,
That law preserves the earth a sphere,
And guides the planets in their course."*

Foreword

THOUGH in certain respects surgical technic has become standardized, yet at any time, even during the performance of what may be regarded as a routine operation, an emergency may arise and a difficult problem demand immediate solution. The surgeon is judged, and rightly judged, by the way in which he deals with such calls upon his skill and judgment. If he becomes flustered, gives contradictory orders, has no definite plan to deal with the crisis, and generally seems at a loss how to proceed, it will be clear to everyone that there is a defect of training, of temperament, or of both. If, on the other hand, he remains calm, retains a steady hand, shows fertility of resource, and successfully overcomes the difficulty, we acknowledge the master-surgeon.

Some men have greater natural self-possession than others, and with increasing experience everyone becomes more resourceful, but no surgeon, however experienced, is likely to have met every possible emergency, and the young surgeon, with his limited opportunities, may have encountered but few. There is, therefore, something to be gained by all surgeons in having available for ready reference some guide-book which gives the relevant information concerning all the likely surgical emergencies. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Knowledge of how the expert has solved a problem should always help in dealing with a similar difficulty. To provide this knowledge is the purpose of this book which covers a wide field, and in which every effort has been made to furnish the best and most up-to-date information. May its purpose be fulfilled.

V. ZACHARY COPE

London, England

Preface

THE problems involved in the emergency case are always a challenge to the alertness, preparedness, and acumen of every doctor of medicine. There are among our profession many whose contact with accidental injury is a regular part of their daily routine. These men, who are especially trained by their predecessors, or by their own vast experience, or by the dint of constant mental effort, meet these emergencies with a knowledge that leads to good treatment and consequently, desired results.

On the other hand, countless physicians are held responsible in the case of an emergency, regardless of their specialty, or their lack of interest in this type of practice. None of us can be excused from duty when a disaster comes, and our services are needed. There have been directives of a broad nature already issued, and some efforts have been made to educate lay workers as well as physicians, to act with some clarity under these circumstances. World War II manuals are available and, although chiefly concerned with the military problems of encampment and battle, are still of value. Doubtless these will be expanded, and new subjects will be covered in due time.

There is not, however, a single, compact volume that covers the emergency situations that occur daily, and those that can be anticipated under our present uncertain and precarious state of international affairs. In this new book, edited by Dr. Ficarra, we have a most important directive to guide every physician, when the emergency arises. The first treatment, even to the position of the injured best suited for transportation, is the one that, when correctly carried out, saves a life.

This book should be the bible of every emergency ward surgeon, and the handy reference guide for every doctor's office. Here will be found tested and tried methods of procedure, made available to all from the vast experience of experts in this important field of surgery.

Boston, Mass.

ARTHUR W. ALLEN, M.D.

Introduction

ONE of America's greatest contributions to the advancement of surgical knowledge is the voluminous literature written on the various aspects of surgery. The dignified surgical journals and the masterfully composed textbooks which have appeared during the past decades attest to the American genius for stimulating great efforts in surgery which aid humanity by eradicating disease.

Every article published and every book written do not always contain new-found information or a great discovery. Nevertheless, they bring to the attention of men of medicine and surgery certain facts and gifts of knowledge which have been found useful in alleviating the pains of a suffering humanity as well as curtailing the scourge of disease.

This book on EMERGENCY SURGERY it is hoped will be accepted as a text of this type, namely, that it will contain information that will assist in serving humanity. To quote Sir William Osler, our purpose is "to track to their sources the causes of diseases, to correlate the vast stores of knowledge, that they may be *quickly* available for the prevention and cure of diseases—these are our ambitions."

The authors who have created this book should be complimented and congratulated. Each has performed his task well and their presentation of the various subjects is a written testimony and tribute to their talents. The material presented encompasses the management of emergencies encountered in the various regions of the human body, and the human body as a psychosomatic entity. Emphasis has been placed upon the treatment of emergencies and acute surgical problems so that they may be managed in the best possible manner for the patient's benefit.

Although there is no specific heading entitled "War Surgery," nevertheless within the pages of this book will be found discussions on those injuries sustained during warfare. In the same category of war injuries are those emergencies resulting from atomic bombing. This subject and allied topics are included in this volume as future reference material. May it never be necessary to use this knowledge; however, it is contained here if the need should arise.

All those associated with the creation of this book are worthy of our profound gratitude. I know they do not desire any expression of gratitude, for

the book itself is a printed manifestation of its own indebtedness to the authors. The contributors have written for future generations gems of surgical knowledge which will alleviate the sufferings of mankind. The publishers have given a physical structure to these gems which encase them for preservation through the years. Both authors and publishers have brought forth a book which is a credit to the printer's art. It is hoped that their labors have not been in vain and that this book will be listed among the literary efforts which have contributed to the advancement of American surgical knowledge and prestige.

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