

Scientific Foundations of Surgery

WELLS-KYLE-DUNPHY

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Edited by

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SECOND EDITION

W. B. SAUNDERS COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA . TORONTO

First published 1967
Second Edition 1974

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Western Hemisphere publication rights assigned to
W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia

Originating publisher was
William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd.
London

ISBN 0 7216 9208 7
Library of Congress Catalog No.
73 93018

Text set in 10/11 pt. Monotype Times New Roman, printed by letterpress,
and bound in Great Britain at The Pitman Press, Bath

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

For the most part this book is written for surgeons, by surgeons. Its aim is to go beyond lip-service to a phrase and to present truly applied physiology.

Full consideration is given at each stage to the influence upon physiological processes of pathological states and of surgical intervention. What thereafter remains of general pathology is the subject of a separate chapter.

Organ pathology, as such, is not included nor are clinical considerations except when directly related to the functional background.

Some authors have gone into greater detail than others and the student will need to discriminate in his reading. The clinician and the clinical teacher will find material to refresh and supplement the memory.

Whilst many important, recent communications are quoted, the tedium of a complete bibliography has deliberately been avoided. Original sources will be found in the works recommended for further reading.

January, 1967

C. W.

J. K.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Six years ago in our first edition, of which there are now Spanish and German translations, we sought to identify those aspects of the basic medical sciences that had become established and, currently, were strictly applicable. Most of our authors were practising clinicians. We hope we may have made a contribution, however small, to the understanding of these subjects, and primarily to physiology in the general context of patient-care and especially in the field of surgery.

The years between have seen the publication in the same format of companion volumes in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Neurology and Anaesthesia, the last-named already in its second edition. Other, similar volumes in course of preparation include Paediatrics, Oncology, Dentistry, Otolaryngology, Orthopaedics and Urology. These more specialized subjects have necessarily been treated in greater depth than originally seemed appropriate in general surgery.

At the same time, a number of basic disciplines of importance in the whole field of clinical practice have grown apace. This growth in knowledge has created the need for a more esoteric and forward-looking approach in some sections of our present work and this in turn has necessitated a change of emphasis in authorship from practitioners to research workers. From some of the latter, because of the nature of their subjects, we have accepted an unusual number of textual references, contrary to our established policy.

In the chapters on Immunology and Peripheral Nerve we have included introductory sections for the guidance of readers who may wish to refresh their memories before looking at these subjects in greater detail. The description of the central nervous system has been re-cast as a conspectus emphasizing its integrated action, thus illustrating the way in which selected pathological entities produce their effects. The editors do not feel that a more complete statement of neuro-anatomy and neuro-physiology, however condensed, could usefully be presented within the scope of this volume.

An outline of the new International System of Units (SI) is given in the Appendix. It has not been possible to follow this system in every section of this edition.

The first edition was designed to lighten the task of the senior student and, on occasion, to be useful to a teacher in any one of the clinical subjects. The aims of this second edition are no different; and that so much of the text has had to be re-written is merely a reflection of the changing times.

The original two editors now have the welcome assistance of Dr. Englebert Dunphy who is a signatory to this preface. We are grateful to all our contributors past and present. Our relationship with the publishers have been most cordial and we extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Owen R. Evans and his assistants. We thank our secretaries, Mrs. B. J. Wright and Miss M. Paterson, and our wives for their understanding patience.

January 1974

C.W.
J.K.
E.D.

We record with the deepest regret the sudden and untimely death of three of our most distinguished contributors, namely Lord Rosenheim, Dr. Henry Harkins and Dr. Jack Gibbon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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<i>Documenta Geigy:</i>				<i>Scientific Tables</i> , 6th Edit. (1962). Messrs. Geigy Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Basle and Manchester—used for checking scientific values throughout the book.

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