

HOLT'S DISEASES OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD

A TEXTBOOK FOR THE USE OF
STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS

BY THE LATE
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PREFACE TO THE ELEVENTH EDITION

The past two decades have witnessed many changes in the organization of medicine and of pediatrics in the United States. The growth of medical centers in many cities has provided ever increasing opportunities for laboratory and, in particular, for clinical research, and the advances in knowledge have been correspondingly rapid. A considerable degree of specialization has developed within the field of pediatrics; students devoting a major portion of their time to a single disease or group of diseases have been able to acquire knowledge, skill and experience beyond that of the general pediatrician, who must perforce cover the entire field. It is obvious that these developments have made it increasingly difficult for any one or two authors to write with authority on a broad speciality such as pediatrics. An appreciation of this dilemma has been responsible for the growth of the multiple-author textbook in recent years. Multiple authorship, however, with its obvious advantages of presenting first-hand information and points of view, has several drawbacks; contributors are bound to differ in the degree of thoroughness of their presentation; uniformity of style is lost and conflicting points of view are often presented with no attempt to harmonize them. It has seemed to us possible to produce a book which combines the advantages of single and multiple authorship, by inviting the collaboration, rather than the independent contribution, of individuals with special knowledge on one or another subject. This we have attempted to do in the present volume.

We have been fortunate in enlisting the aid of a group of our colleagues in producing such a text as we had in mind. Their names are listed elsewhere and their initials appear below the articles in which they have collaborated. Our own contribution to these articles has been variable; in some instances it has been negligible and in others considerable portions of the text have been written by ourselves. Not infrequently differences of opinion have arisen in regard to the matter or the emphasis in presentation which have led to clarifying discussions and modifications of the text. The final product represents in all instances points of view which we hold jointly with our collaborators, and for which we are prepared to share the responsibility. As in the previous edition we have retained the use of the first person for the experiences of our predecessors as well as our own; the scope of personal experience has now been widened by including that of our collaborators.

Extensive changes have been made in the present edition. Nearly every topic has been subjected to some revision and large parts have been rewritten entirely, including diseases of the newborn, nutrition, diseases of the blood, diseases of allergy, congenital heart disease, psychopathological problems, diseases of the bones and a number of the infectious diseases. An entire section devoted to diseases of the eye has been added. The section on endocrine disorders has been considerably enlarged to permit a more extended discussion of disturbances of the adrenals, pituitary and parathyroid glands. Among other new topics discussed may be mentioned inclusion blennorrhea, erythroblastosis fetalis, lymphosarcoma, petrositis, regional enteritis, cystic fibrosis of the pan-

creas, osteopetrosis, macrocephalus, myasthenia gravis, adrenal insufficiency, contact dermatitis, lipodystrophy, glycogen disease and actinomycosis. New growth charts and tables of ossification have been included, as well as many new illustrations. These additions have involved some condensation in other parts of the book, a task which we believe has been accomplished without serious loss. The original aim and purpose of the book has been constantly kept in mind—to furnish a guide to practical therapy based on a thorough understanding of the nature of disease.

To keep the book abreast of present knowledge is a difficult task, and in some rapidly moving fields, such as that of chemotherapy, well nigh an impossible one. The shortcomings of our text are many and we can only beg the reader's indulgence for them. Such success as we may have achieved is due in large measure to our collaborators. In addition to them we are indebted to many others who have read portions of the manuscript and have made valuable criticisms and suggestions. Lack of space precludes our mentioning all of them, but special thanks are due to Drs. Samuel S. Blackman and Arnold R. Rich who have assisted in bringing the pathological discussions up to date; to Dr. Samuel J. Crowe who has made many constructive suggestions in connection with the diseases of the nose and throat, Dr. Miriam E. Brailey who has been most helpful in revising the article on tuberculosis and Dr. J. Gardner Hopkins who has given advice in connection with the diseases of the skin. Dr. Samuel Z. Levine has been kind enough to read and criticize the section on nutrition and Dr. Edwards A. Park has been of the greatest assistance in revising the article on rickets. Dr. James D. Trask has been most helpful in connection with the article on poliomyelitis, and we are indebted to Dr. Richard S. Lyman for the material on electroencephalography. As before, Dr. Frank R. Ford has undertaken a major share of the work of revising the section on organic nervous diseases.

The work of preparing the index was carried out by Dr. Arthur E. Laidlaw. Lastly, acknowledgment is due to our secretaries, Mrs. Anne B. Nixdorff and Mrs. Esther V. Stone, who have been of the greatest assistance in the technical details of assembling and organizing the manuscript and in reading proof.

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