

# THE PRACTICE OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

Edited by

RAYMOND GREENE

M.A., D.M., M.R.C.P.

Published on behalf of
THE PRACTITIONER
by
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE
1951

# First Published 1948 Second (Revised) Edition 1951

# THE PRACTICE OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

# The Practitioner Series

EDITED BY SIR HENEAGE OGILVIE, K.B.E., D.M., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., AND WILLIAM A. R. THOMSON, M.D.

PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

at the part of

MODERN ANÆSTHETIC PRACTICE

MODERN DIAGNOSIS

MINOR SURGERY

PSYCHOLOGY IN GENERAL PRACTICE

CHILD HEALTH

SKIN DISEASES IN GENERAL PRACTICE

TREATMENT BY MANIPULATION

PAIN AND ITS PROBLEMS

DISEASES OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATION

EARLY RECOGNITION OF DISEASE

#### PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

hough I have been fortunate in receiving their advice, the original authors of this book have been content to leave the revision in my hands. Therefore, any deterioration must be debited to me and not to them.

In particular, I have attempted to bear in mind the people for whom the book was planned—the general practitioners in whose ranks I served for the first ten years of my professional life. I have omitted certain sections which, excellent though they may have been in themselves, attracted the adverse attention of reviewers because they were too theoretical or too detailed for this audience. I have added no new matter of which the practical application is not clear. Many of the references have been omitted for a similar reason. A multiplicity of references makes reading more difficult and it is unlikely that many readers of this book will wish to refer to the original papers on which the statements are based. Some references of more than ordinary historical interest have escaped pruning, together with very recent ones, but in general the principle has been followed that, if a statement made more than ten years ago is still regarded as sound, the general practitioner will rarely wish to examine the evidence for himself.

My thanks are due to so many that I cannot name them all. Especially, I would like to thank the reviewers whose kindly criticisms of the first edition I have tried to meet; a multitude of friends whose criticisms were often even more useful because less kindly; and finally, in point of time, Miss Ursula Matthews, whose technical experience has lifted from my shoulders many of the more boring of my editorial functions.

R. G.

June, 1950

#### PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

his book is intended for general practitioners, most of whom are too busy to concern themselves with unproven hypothesis and academic detail. I have therefore given most space to diagnosis and treatment, including only enough anatomy and physiology to give the practice of endocrinology an intelligible background.

Endocrinology is probably the fastest growing-point in medicine to-day and any book is bound to grow out of date between manuscript and proof. But I have made no attempt to echo *le dernier cri*, which is too often that of a will-o'-the-wisp. New treatments should be tested under carefully controlled conditions in special clinics, not by clinical impressions in busy practices: therapy is often a poor test of theory.

I have taken the unusual course of recommending by name a number of proprietary preparations. The mention of a particular preparation does not necessarily imply that there is no equivalent; it does mean that it has been subjected to careful test by myself or one of my collaborators. The market is flooded with well-advertised "hormone" preparations which are of no value whatever, and at present the doctor who rarely uses hormones has no means of telling which are potent and which impotent or even fraudulent. A curious position has thus arisen in which reputable firms (who are, after all, commercial and not philanthropic organisations) have been forced by the mistaken demands of the medical profession to manufacture goods they frankly admit to be useless. Of these the best known examples are extracts of the pituitary and parathyroid glands for oral use (which are absolutely inactive by this route), and of testicles, ovaries and corpora lutea, which possess often a very slight activity and have been entirely replaced in expert practice by the pure synthetic androgens, œstrogens and progestational hormones. In a still lower category are extracts of prostate, thymus, breasts and brain, which should never be used by reputable doctors or made by reputable firms.

The reputation of endocrinology as a special branch of medicine has suffered much in past years not only from the dubious products of a few commercial houses but also from the ignorance of the basic facts of the science displayed by a large proportion of practising physicians. It is in the hope of helping the general practitioner to display in his treatment of endocrine disorder the high standard he has achieved in other branches of his profession that this book has been planned.

R. G.

#### THE COLLABORATORS

- A. C. CROOKE, M.A., M.D. (Cantab). Clinical Endocrinologist to the Birmingham United Hospital, the Birmingham and Midland Hospitals for Women, and the Children's Hospital, Birmingham; formerly Endocrinologist to the Medical and Endocrine Units of the London Hospital.
- RAYMOND GREENE, M.A., D.M. (Oxon), M.R.C.P. (Lond.). Physician, the Metropolitan Hospital, the Royal Northern Hospital, Harrow Hospital, and the Thyroid Clinic, New End Hospital, Hampstead; formerly Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons of England.
- DONALD HUNTER, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Physician, the London Hospital.
- R. D. LAWRENCE, M.A., M.D. (Aberdeen), F.R.C.P. (Lond.). Physician in charge of the Diabetic Department, King's College Hospital, London.
- J. M. ROBSON, M.D., D.Sc. (Leeds), F.R.S.E. Professor of Pharmacology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London.
- F. F. RUNDLE, M.D. (Sydney), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). Assistant Surgeon and Assistant Director of the Surgical Professional Unit, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; formerly Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons of London.
- P. H. SANDIFER, F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.M. Assistant Physician, Maida Vale Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London; Neurological Physician, Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, London.

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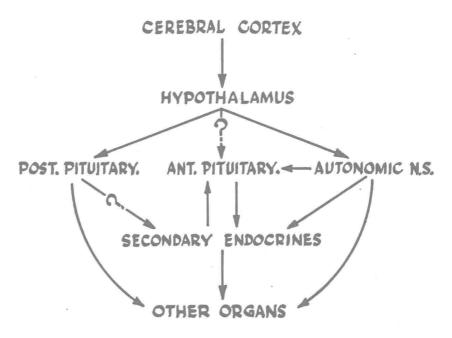


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