

PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS

A Textbook for Students and Practitioners of Medicine

By

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Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. Introduction	13
Definitions	13
History	14
Relation to Other Medical Sciences	14
Mode of Action of Drugs	15
Stimulation, Depression, Irritation	15
Distribution and Concentration	16
Elective Affinity of Drugs	17
Protoplasmic Poisons	17
Local, General and Remote Actions	17
Pharmacologic Syndromes	18
General Theories of Pharmacologic Action	19
Biological Antagonisms	20
Chemical Constitution and Pharmacologic Action	21
Conditions Modifying the Effects of Drugs	22
Drug Idiosyncrasy	27
Methods of Administration of Drugs	28
Chemical Character of Drugs	33
The Pharmacopeias and other Official Publications	35
Official Preparations	36
Biological Assay	39
2. General Anesthetics	42
History	42
Stages of Anesthesia	43
Action	46
On Nervous System	46
On Respiration	48
On Circulation	49
On Heart	50
On Blood Vessels	52
Other Actions	52
Mechanism of Action	53
Absorption and Excretion	54
Anesthetic Deaths	55
Ether	56
Chloroform	56
Nitrous Oxide	58
Ethylene	60
Cyclopropane	61
Divinyl Ether	63
Tribromoethanol	63
Trichlorethylene	64
Ethyl Chloride	64
Acetylene	65
Intravenous Anesthesia	65
Combined Anesthesia	66
Therapeutic Use	66
3. The Aliphatic Alcohols	71
Ethyl Alcohol	71
Absorption and Excretion	77

CHAPTER	PAGE
Ethyl Alcohol as a Food	78
Metabolism	79
Other Effects	79
Alcoholism	80
Therapeutic Uses	82
Methyl Alcohol	84
Other Aliphatic Alcohols	85
Glycols and Glycerol	85
4. Morphine and Other Opium Alkaloids	88
Chemistry	88
Morphine	91
Absorption and Excretion	97
Tolerance and Addiction	97
Poisoning	98
Codeine	100
Dihydrocodeinone	101
Dihydromorphinone	101
Heroin (Diamorphine)	101
Metopon Hydrochloride	102
Methorphan	102
Apomorphine	103
Papaverine	104
Therapeutic Uses	104
Minor Naturally Occurring Narcotics	107
5. Analgesics and Antipyretics	113
Non Opiate Addicting Analgesics	114
Meperidine	114
Methadone	115
Antipyretic Analgesics	117
Acetanilid and Antipyrine Series	117
Antirheumatic Analgesics	125
Salicylates	125
Colchicine	130
Cincophen and Its Derivatives	132
6. Hypnotics and Sedatives	138
Barbituric Acid Derivatives	139
Absorption and Excretion	142
Habituation and Poisoning	142
Therapeutic Uses	143
Chloral Hydrate	145
Other Chloral Derivatives	146
Paraldehyde	147
Sulfonmethanes	148
7. Anticonvulsants or Antiepileptics	152
The Bromides	153
Distribution and Excretions	155
Chronic Intoxication	155
Therapeutic Use	156
Other Bromine Containing Sedatives	157
Hydantoin Derivatives	157
Oxazolidine Derivatives	160
Mephobarbital	160
Phenylacetylurea	161
8. Stimulants of the Central Nervous System	163
Strychnine	164

CHAPTER	PAGE
Pentylentetrazole (Leptazol)	168
Nikethamide	169
Picrotoxin	170
The Xanthines: Caffeine, Theobromine and Theophylline	172
Action	173
Absorption and Excretion	176
Therapeutic Uses	177
Coffee and Tea	178
9. Drugs Acting on Autonomic Effector Cells	182
Neurohormonal Mechanism Underlying Autonomic Nervous System Activity	182
Chemical Mediators of Autonomic Activity	184
Mediators of Adrenergic Action	185
Classification of Autonomic Drugs	186
Autonomic Functions	187
Therapeutic Uses	191
10. Epinephrine and Other Drugs Stimulating Structures Innervated by Adrenergic Nerves	192
Epinephrine (Adrenaline)	192
Therapeutic Uses	200
Norepinephrine (Noradrenaline)	202
Ephedrine	204
Relation of Chemical Structure to Pharmacologic Activity	206
Amphetamine	207
Methamphetamine	209
Phenylephrine	209
Other Aromatic Sympathomimetic Amines	210
Aliphatic Amines	215
11. Drugs Inhibiting Structures Innervated by Adrenergic Nerves	218
Ergot and Its Alkaloids	218
Toxicology	221
Assay	226
Therapeutic Uses	226
Dihydrogenated Ergot Alkaloids	228
Dioxane Derivatives	228
Dibenzylchlorethylene	229
Other Adrenergic Blocking Agents	231
12. Drugs Stimulating Structures Innervated by Cholinergic Nerves	234
Acetylcholine	234
Other Choline Derivatives	236
Methacholine	237
Therapeutic Uses	238
Carbachol	238
Bethanechol Chloride	239
Furtrethonium Iodide	240
Muscarine	241
Mushroom Poisoning	243
Pilocarpine	244
Therapeutic Uses	246
Arecoline	247
Physostigmine	247
Symptoms	248
Therapeutic Uses	250
Neostigmine	250
Therapeutic Uses	251
Diisopropyl Fluorophosphate	252

CHAPTER	PAGE
13. Depressants of the Postganglionic Cholinergic Nerves	256
The Atropine Series	256
Occurrence	256
Chemistry	256
Hyoscyamine	268
Scopolamine	268
Preparations	269
Therapeutic Uses	269
Homatropine and Other Artificial Tropeines	272
Other Synthetic Substitutes for the Belladonna Alkaloids	273
14. Drugs Inhibiting Autonomic Ganglia and Skeletal Muscles	278
Nicotine	278
Tobacco	284
Curare	286
Chemistry	286
Therapeutic Uses	290
Other Curariform Agents	291
Tetraethylammonium Salts	293
15. Histamine and Antihistamine Compounds	298
Histamine	298
Rôle in Allergy and Anaphylaxis	302
Histamine-Antagonizing Agents	303
Chemistry	306
Therapeutic Uses	308
16. Local and Regional Anesthetics	311
Local Anesthesia	311
Cocaine	314
Therapeutic Use	320
Synthetic Local Anesthetics	320
Slightly Soluble Local Anesthetics	326
17. Drugs Acting Primarily on the Cardiovascular System	329
The Digitalis Series	329
Occurrence	329
Chemistry	331
Adsorption and Distribution	343
Assay	344
Therapeutic Uses	345
Preparations, Dosage and Methods of Administration	349
Digitalis Intoxication	352
The Nitrites, Nitrates and Nitrous Esters	355
Quinidine	363
Procaine Amide	365
Drugs Used in Hypertension	365
Minor Drugs	367
18. Drugs Acting Primarily on the Gastrointestinal Tract	373
Simple Bitters	373
Demulcents	374
Digestants	376
Carminatives	379
Absorbents	379
Antacids	380
Cathartics	383
Aperients	386
Anthracene Purgatives	389
Phenolphthalein	391

CHAPTER	PAGE
Drastic Purgatives	393
Saline Cathartics	393
Anthelmintics	401
19. Drugs Acting Primarily on the Kidney: Diuretics	413
Water	415
Urea	415
Saline Diuretics	416
Acidifying Agents	416
Xanthine Drugs	417
Mercurial Diuretics	420
Other Diuretic Agents	423
Therapeutic Use of the Diuretics	424
20. Chemotherapy	427
History	427
Experimental Chemotherapy	429
Chemotherapeutic Activity	429
Pharmacology	430
Drug Resistance	431
Mechanism of Action	431
Chemotherapeutic Agents	432
Trypanosomiasis	432
The Diamidines	433
Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs	435
Other Organic Chemotherapeutic Agents	437
Therapeutic Uses	438
21. The Sulfonamides and Related Compounds	442
History	442
Chemistry	444
Pharmacology	444
Toxicology	445
Principal Derivatives	448
Therapeutic Uses	456
22. The Antibiotics	462
Penicillin	462
Streptomycin and Dihydrostreptomycin	475
Chlorotetracycline	481
Oxytetracycline	482
Erythromycin	483
Carbomycin	484
Chloramphenicol (Chloromycetin)	484
Antibiotics Derived from Bacteria	486
Other Antibiotics	488
23. Quinine and Other Antimalarials	494
Malaria	494
Quinine	496
Chemistry	496
Toxicology	500
Excretion	501
Therapeutic Uses	501
Quinacrine (Mepacrine)	503
Pamaquine (Plasmochin, Plasmoquine)	505
Chloroquine	506
Pentaquine and Its Congeners	507
Chloroguanide (Paludrine)	508

CHAPTER	PAGE
24. Emetine and Other Amebacidal Drugs	512
Emetine	513
Toxicology	515
Therapeutic Use	515
Arsenical Amebicides	519
Hydroxyquinoline Derivatives	516
Antibiotics	518
25. Local Anti-Infectives and Other Drugs Characterized Chiefly by Their	
Local Action	522
Antiseptics and Disinfectants	522
Surgical Antiseptics and Disinfectants	526
Antiseptics Used Chiefly in Skin Diseases	546
Genito-Urinary Antiseptics	549
Disinfectants for Rooms, Furniture, <i>etc.</i>	552
Insecticides and Rodenticides	555
Emollients and Protectives	557
Astringents	558
Volatile Oil Series	559
Skin Irritants and Counter-Irritation	560
Toxic Skin Irritants	563
26. The Hormones and Drugs Acting on the Endocrine Organs	565
Anterior Lobe of Pituitary	566
Posterior Lobe of Pituitary	570
The Thyroid Gland	579
Antithyroidal Drugs	586
The Parathyroids	589
The Adrenal Cortex	594
Insulin	602
The Sex Hormones	609
The Gonadotropins	610
The Female Sex Hormones	611
The Male Sex Hormones	619
27. The Vitamins	624
Vitamin A	626
The Vitamin B Complex	630
Thiamine	631
Riboflavin	634
Niacin and Nicotinamide	635
Pyridoxine	638
Pantothenic Acid	638
Biotin	639
Para-aminobenzoic Acid	640
Choline, Inositol and Other Lipotropic Agents	640
Vitamin C	641
Vitamin P and Rutin	644
Vitamin D	645
Vitamin E	648
28. Drugs Acting on the Blood and Hematopoietic System	651
Blood and Its Fractions	651
Antianemic Agents	653
Iron	653
Liver and Liver Preparations	657
Stomach Preparations	660
Vitamin B ₁₂	661
Folic Acid	663

CHAPTER	PAGE
Coagulants and Anticoagulants	666
Local Coagulants	667
Vitamin K	668
Heparin	670
Bishydroxycoumarin	672
Drugs Used in Polycythemia and Leukemia	675
Radioactive Phosphorus	675
Nitrogen Mustard	675
Triethylene Melamine	676
Folic Acid Derivatives	677
Urethane	678
29. Water and Other Non-Metallic Compounds	681
Electrolyte and Water Balance	682
Water	683
Sodium Chloride	686
Potassium Salts	692
Lithium, Cesium and Rubidium Salts	694
Ammonium Salts	695
Caustic Alkalis	697
Ion Exchange Resins	700
Salts of Alkaline Earths	701
Calcium	701
Magnesium Salts	704
Barium Salts	706
Strontium Salts	707
Balanced Salt Solutions	707
Acids	708
Anions	711
Phosphorus and Phosphates	711
Acetates, Lactates and Citrates	713
Oxalates	714
Fluorides	715
Sulfides	716
Iodine and Iodides	717
Gases	723
Oxygen	723
Carbon Dioxide	726
Carbon Monoxide	727
Helium	729
Zenon	729
30. The Metalloids: Arsenic, Antimony and Bismuth	731
Inorganic Preparations of Arsenic	731
Treatment of Arsenic Poisoning	736
Organic Arsenic Preparations	736
Arsenicals Used in Syphilotherapy	739
Mechanism of Action	741
Therapeutic Use	741
Antimony Compounds	742
Toxicology	742
Trivalent Antimony Compounds	743
Pentavalent Antimony Compounds	744
Therapeutic Uses	745
Bismuth Compounds	746
Toxicology	746
Organic Bismuth Preparations	749
Therapeutic Uses	749

CHAPTER	PAGE
31. The Heavy Metals	752
General Action	753
Dimercaprol	754
Iron	756
Copper	758
Zinc	759
Aluminum	761
Lead	762
Silver	768
Mercury	769
Gold	775
Minor Metals	776
Radioactive Elements and Isotopes	780
32. Vaccines, Sera and Miscellaneous Biologicals	783
Vaccines, Toxins and Toxoids	783
Antitoxic Sera, Immune Sera and Antitoxins	786
Protein Hydrolysates	788
Diagnostic Agents	788
Appendix A—Prescription Writing	792
Appendix B—Classification of Drugs According to Their Therapeutic Uses	798
Index	806

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Preface to the Second Edition

THE cordial reception with which the first edition of this book has been received has permitted a new edition to appear within the short space of three years. This has given the author an opportunity of introducing the advances in Pharmacology and Therapeutics which have appeared so rapidly since the appearance of the first edition. New preparations are constantly being added to the physician's armamentarium with which the student as well as the practitioner of medicine must be well acquainted if he is to utilize to its maximum the advances of modern therapeutics. The recent issuance of a revision of the British Pharmacopœia (official, September 1, 1953) has necessitated altering the references to these official preparations. As in the case of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, English names are now given official preference to the Latin in the British Pharmacopœia.

The general plan of the earlier edition has not been altered since this has been found highly satisfactory for teaching purposes. However, each page has received critical scrutiny and many parts of the book have been entirely rewritten. In this way it has been possible to add much new material without exclusion of germane matter and at the same time to maintain the text in a reasonably sized volume.

The growth of Pharmacology and Therapeutics has made it a formidable task to satisfy the experimental pharmacologist, whose interest lies in the broad theory of pharmacodynamics; the student, who requires a basic course which will permit him to use drugs rationally and effectively; and the empirical practitioner, who wishes to keep abreast of developments in therapeutics.

In the first edition of the present book an attempt was made to continue the "severely critical and rigorously scientific" approach to the subject which characterized the original text of Cushny which it replaced. This has continued to be my goal and although little remains of the substance of Cushny's original text, it is hoped that the retention here and there of an inimitable and unimprovable phrase of the great master will add to the reader's enjoyment and value of the book.

I am deeply indebted to Professor Harald Holck and others who have offered valuable suggestions and criticisms of the earlier edition.

ARTHUR GROLLMAN

Dallas, Texas

Preface to the First Edition

THE great advances which have been made in Pharmacology during the last few decades have made this subject one of the most important of the medical curriculum. No longer can it be said with Oliver Wendell Holmes that "if all the drugs of the Pharmacopœia be cast into the ocean, it would be to the hurt of the fishes and to the welfare of mankind." Nor can one deride therapeutics, as did Sir William Osler, by pointing out that only four drugs (iron, quinine, emetine, and mercury) have any specific virtue. The advances in drug therapy have made available to the physician a host of remedial agents with which he practices the art of modern medicine and which make possible its great accomplishments.

The present volume is not intended to be encyclopedic in scope, but rather a textbook adequate for the needs of the medical student and practitioner desirous of an up-to-date coverage of the subject. Although emphasis has been placed on the pharmacology of therapeutically important drugs, others of purely pharmacologic interest have not been neglected. For example, nicotine, muscarine, and strychnine are of little clinical usefulness but an understanding of their action is essential for any fundamental concept of the science of pharmacology. The purpose of the course in pharmacology is to acquaint the student with the scientific basis for the use of drugs in medicine; to do so, involves not only a consideration of the drugs commonly used in the clinic but also of the basic principles of the subject. The more practical minded may object to any attention paid to such drugs as muscarine or strychnine. However, a text in pharmacology should not be a mere handbook of therapeutics but should serve as a foundation for the rational and scientific use of drugs, without losing sight of the ultimate objective which is the application of drug therapy in disease. It is only if this be done that the subject merits a place among the basic disciplines of the preclinical sciences.

Since an extended bibliography would not be feasible, only selected references have been appended to each chapter. No attempt has been made in these to give recognition to all who have contributed to the subject, but rather to cite monographs, recent papers in which extended bibliographies may be found, and occasionally works of historical importance.

An epitome of prescription writing has been added as an appendix. This contains, it is believed, adequate information for the needs of the modern medical curriculum and may be taken up at any point of the course of study convenient to the instructor.

I am indebted to Dr. Harry Beckman, of Marquette University, Professor Harald Holck, of the University of Nebraska, Dr. Chauncey Leake, of the University of Texas, and others who have kindly offered valuable suggestions.

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DALLAS, TEXAS

Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
1. Introduction	13
Definitions	13
History	14
Relation to Other Medical Sciences	14
Mode of Action of Drugs	15
Stimulation, Depression, Irritation	15
Distribution and Concentration	16
Elective Affinity of Drugs	17
Protoplasmic Poisons	17
Local, General and Remote Actions	17
Pharmacologic Syndromes	18
General Theories of Pharmacologic Action	19
Biological Antagonisms	20
Chemical Constitution and Pharmacologic Action	21
Conditions Modifying the Effects of Drugs	22
Drug Idiosyncrasy	27
Methods of Administration of Drugs	28
Chemical Character of Drugs	33
The Pharmacopeias and other Official Publications	35
Official Preparations	36
Biological Assay	39
2. General Anesthetics	42
History	42
Stages of Anesthesia	43
Action	46
On Nervous System	46
On Respiration	48
On Circulation	49
On Heart	50
On Blood Vessels	52
Other Actions	52
Mechanism of Action	53
Absorption and Excretion	54
Anesthetic Deaths	55
Ether	56
Chloroform	56
Nitrous Oxide	58
Ethylene	60
Cyclopropane	61
Divinyl Ether	63
Tribromoethanol	63
Trichlorethylene	64
Ethyl Chloride	64
Acetylene	65
Intravenous Anesthesia	65
Combined Anesthesia	66
Therapeutic Use	66
3. The Aliphatic Alcohols	71
Ethyl Alcohol	71
Absorption and Excretion	77

CHAPTER	PAGE
Ethyl Alcohol as a Food	78
Metabolism	79
Other Effects	79
Alcoholism	80
Therapeutic Uses	82
Methyl Alcohol	84
Other Aliphatic Alcohols	85
Glycols and Glycerol	85
4. Morphine and Other Opium Alkaloids	88
Chemistry	88
Morphine	91
Absorption and Excretion	97
Tolerance and Addiction	97
Poisoning	98
Codeine	100
Dihydrocodeinone	101
Dihydromorphinone	101
Heroin (Diamorphine)	101
Metopon Hydrochloride	102
Methorphan	102
Apomorphine	103
Papaverine	104
Therapeutic Uses	104
Minor Naturally Occurring Narcotics	107
5. Analgesics and Antipyretics	113
Non Opiate Addicting Analgesics	114
Meperidine	114
Methadone	115
Antipyretic Analgesics	117
Acetanilid and Antipyrine Series	117
Antirheumatic Analgesics	125
Salicylates	125
Colchicine	130
Cincophen and Its Derivatives	132
6. Hypnotics and Sedatives	138
Barbituric Acid Derivatives	139
Absorption and Excretion	142
Habituation and Poisoning	142
Therapeutic Uses	143
Chloral Hydrate	145
Other Chloral Derivatives	146
Paraldehyde	147
Sulfonmethanes	148
7. Anticonvulsants or Antiepileptics	152
The Bromides	153
Distribution and Excretions	155
Chronic Intoxication	155
Therapeutic Use	156
Other Bromine Containing Sedatives	157
Hydantoin Derivatives	157
Oxazolidine Derivatives	160
Mephobarbital	160
Phenylacetylurea	161
8. Stimulants of the Central Nervous System	163
Strychnine	164

CHAPTER	PAGE
Pentylentetrazole (Leptazol)	168
Nikethamide	169
Picrotoxin	170
The Xanthines: Caffeine, Theobromine and Theophylline	172
Action	173
Absorption and Excretion	176
Therapeutic Uses	177
Coffee and Tea	178
9. Drugs Acting on Autonomic Effector Cells	182
Neurohormonal Mechanism Underlying Autonomic Nervous System Activity	182
Chemical Mediators of Autonomic Activity	184
Mediators of Adrenergic Action	185
Classification of Autonomic Drugs	186
Autonomic Functions	187
Therapeutic Uses	191
10. Epinephrine and Other Drugs Stimulating Structures Innervated by Adrenergic Nerves	192
Epinephrine (Adrenaline)	192
Therapeutic Uses	200
Norepinephrine (Noradrenaline)	202
Ephedrine	204
Relation of Chemical Structure to Pharmacologic Activity	206
Amphetamine	207
Methamphetamine	209
Phenylephrine	209
Other Aromatic Sympathomimetic Amines	210
Aliphatic Amines	215
11. Drugs Inhibiting Structures Innervated by Adrenergic Nerves	218
Ergot and Its Alkaloids	218
Toxicology	221
Assay	226
Therapeutic Uses	226
Dihydrogenated Ergot Alkaloids	228
Dioxane Derivatives	228
Dibenzylchlorethylene	229
Other Adrenergic Blocking Agents	231
12. Drugs Stimulating Structures Innervated by Cholinergic Nerves	234
Acetylcholine	234
Other Choline Derivatives	236
Methacholine	237
Therapeutic Uses	238
Carbachol	238
Bethanechol Chloride	239
Furtrethonium Iodide	240
Muscarine	241
Mushroom Poisoning	243
Pilocarpine	244
Therapeutic Uses	246
Arecoline	247
Physostigmine	247
Symptoms	248
Therapeutic Uses	250
Neostigmine	250
Therapeutic Uses	251
Diisopropyl Fluorophosphate	252