

Pharmacology
in
Clinical
Practice

BECKMAN

Pharmacology in Clinical Practice

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DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE STUDENTS WITH
WHOSE FORBEARANCE AND AID I HAVE
DEVELOPED THIS SUBJECT
THROUGH THE YEARS

THE TRUE PHYSICIAN IS ONE WHO CURES;
OBSERVATION WHICH DOES NOT TEACH TO
CURE IS NOT OBSERVATION BY A PHYSICIAN
BUT RATHER BY A NATURALIST.

F. J. V. BROUSSAIS (1772-1838)

PREFACE

This book presents the kind of pharmacology that is taught here at Marquette. More than that, it represents the philosophy of pre-clinical teaching that has evolved within me as the years have passed. When I came into Pharmacology after clinical training, more than a quarter century ago, I found its pedagogical methods very disturbing. They were based on the premise that to fill a young man with scientific facts regarding a large number of drugs would equip him to use those drugs subsequently in the treatment of his patients. This is incorrect because it assumes that the physician or surgeon at the bedside or operating table, and the dentist at his chair, all reason forward from the drug to the patient. They do not. They reason back from the patient and his malady to the drug.

I think in terms of specific diseases and the opportunities they present to the pharmacologist, in terms of symptoms and not of anatomical groupings of organs or chemical groupings of drugs. The material in this book is presented with that orientation. This leaves no place for consideration of the historical development of compounds or the relationships of chemical composition and biologic activity. These are immensely important subjects—but only to the pharmacologist and graduate student in pharmacology, not to undergraduate medical and dental students or to practitioners in either profession.

There are two sections in this book. Section I presents the pharmacologic aspects of all—well, nearly all—the major problems that arise in medicine and dentistry. It should be studied, learned, mastered. Section II supplies a few chemical and physical facts about the drugs discussed in Section I and lists some representative commercially available preparations of each so that you will know the forms in which it is available. This Section is designed for reference only, but I hope you will find some pleasure, too, in using it.

Almost precisely 22 years ago today the first edition of my *Treatment in General Practice* appeared. Through all of the time that has since passed, my relations with my publishers, the great firm of W. B. Saunders Company, have been cordial and warmly sustaining. I offer them this new book to supersede the old in full confidence that they will derive as much pleasure from the task of bringing it out as I had in writing it.

HARRY BECKMAN, M.D.

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