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Cecil—Loeb

**TEXTBOOK
OF
MEDICINE**

BEESON AND McDERMOTT

VOLUME I

Cecil — Loeb

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE

Thirteenth Edition

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1971

W. B. SAUNDERS COMPANY PHILADELPHIA — LONDON — TORONTO

W. B. Saunders Company: West Washington Square
Philadelphia, Pa. 19105

12 Dyott Street
London, WC1A 1DB

1835 Yonge Street
Toronto 7, Ontario

Listed here is the latest translated edition of this book, together with the language of the translation and the publisher.

Serbo-Croat (11th Edition)—Medicinska Knjiga, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
Spanish (12th Edition)—Editorial Interamericana, Mexico

Cecil-Loeb Textbook of Medicine

Vol. I SBN 0-7216-1658-5
Vol. II SBN 0-7216-1659-3

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FOR
CHINA**

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PREFACE

In his Preface to the first (1927) edition of this textbook, Dr. Russell Cecil said:

In internal medicine, as in other branches of human knowledge, the age of specialism has of necessity arrived, and some of our ablest practitioners even devote themselves in great measure to one disease. In order that physicians and students of medicine might have the benefit of an authoritative and up-to-date treatise on every medical subject, it seemed desirable to prepare a textbook of medicine in which each disease, or group of diseases, would be discussed by a writer particularly interested in that subject.

His judgment of the need for multiple authorship in the vast area of general medicine has now come to be universally accepted and is in fact no longer "news." The Cecil—later the Cecil-Loeb—textbook has served as a standard reference work throughout the professional lives of most physicians now in active practice. As we introduce the thirteenth edition, the third under our editorship, we would like to air some of our views about the organization and function of a textbook for the study and practice of medicine.

The pace of clinical investigation is such that the book needs to be largely rebuilt every four years in order to incorporate new concepts, new methods of diagnosis, and new treatments. In preparing a new edition one of our most important responsibilities is selection of contributors, because about one article in three is written by an author not previously associated with the book. In all such matters we consult extensively with the Associate Editors: Drs. Bearn, Christy, Moore, Plum, and Sleisenger. Before a new author is invited, we have together decided on the area to be covered and on the number of text pages that can be allocated to it. We try, by written instructions and by our own editing, to attain a reasonably uniform style of presentation without sacrificing all individuality of expression. Contributors to previous editions are encouraged to rewrite completely if they wish to. The intent is that each article will not only stand by itself but will also serve as an entry-point to a larger body of knowledge. With that object in mind, special attention is given to selection of references.

As we look back on successive editions, we are

struck by the continual need to alter the method of presenting specific topics. At various times, for example, the disease sarcoidosis has been looked upon as affecting principally the bones, skin, or lungs, but now it is recognized as a truly multisystemic disease which justifies the hackneyed phrase: "protean manifestations." Contrarily and even more often, the changes must be in the direction of further splintering. Note the present intricate classification of disorders of lipid metabolism, and the need to speak of "glomerular diseases" instead of what was once pigeon-holed as "glomerulonephritis."

Reviewers' comments on past editions have of course been interesting to us. In the main they have been commendatory, but it is obvious that people see different roles for something which bears the title "textbook of medicine." Some have felt that an undergraduate medical student would be better served for his first tour of the field by a sort of primer which would provide concise descriptions of major diseases. Certainly the Cecil-Loeb textbook is not intended to be read cover-to-cover. One can argue, nevertheless, that the undergraduate often wishes to obtain knowledge in depth about a subject, just as does the mature clinician.

One reviewer thought that because weakness is among the most common of symptoms, a textbook should contain an article devoted to that one manifestation. We agree that people often complain of weakness, but we are not convinced that an article about it would contain much useful information. Speaking more generally, we question whether the logic of the clinician often turns on the differential diagnosis of a single manifestation. Instead we think the diagnostic computer is usually turning out possibilities on the basis of concurrence of several manifestations, together with such factors as age, sex, and the sequence of events. If that be the case, many entities are likely to suggest themselves, and the clinician will receive more help from a reference work that provides good discussions of each possibility.

The present edition contains much new material and extensive revisions throughout. One major

section, Respiratory Disease, is wholly new, and another, Environmental Factors in Disease, has been reorganized, expanded, and preceded by an introductory article, "Man in his Environment," by H. E. Lewis. This represents an extension of the theme developed by R. J. Dubos in one of the Forewords to the last edition. But the struggles of man in modern society are so varied and the subject so limitless that in a textbook of clinical medicine one can do little more than characterize the major issues and provide guidance to more extended considerations. In this spirit the reader is now introduced to the text proper by a brief essay on medicine in modern society.

We hope that this new work will once again

serve the needs of students of all ages. We thank our Associate Editors for their many suggestions as well as for their own important discussions. We are grateful to all contributors for authoritative writing. We must acknowledge special indebtedness to Mrs. Helen W. Miller for her faultless handling of hundreds of manuscripts and proofs; she has been the focal link between contributors, editors, and publishers. As always, we have found it a pleasure to work with the able and devoted people who are the W. B. Saunders Company.

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FRED PLUM, M.D.***Introduction to Disorders of the Nervous System and Behavior; Introduction to Consciousness and Its Disturbances; The Pathogenesis of Stupor and Coma; Sleep and Its Disorders; The Management of Acute Depressive Drug Poisoning; Phenothiazine Toxicity; Headache; The Management of Severe Neurologic Disability; Idiopathic Autonomic Insufficiency; Abnormalities in Respiratory Control***

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