

OPERATIVE TECHNIC IN SPECIALTY SURGERY

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With 67 contributing authors

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Introduction by Allen O. Whipple



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THE SURGERY OF PORTAL HYPERTENSION

Preface

This volume is devoted to the surgical specialties, although they are admittedly difficult to define and often overlap general surgery. In spite of the fact that the medical profession has for years been trying to curb the tendency toward specialization, this trend has progressed. Nevertheless, we must admit that progress is much more rapid when the individual worker devotes his entire time to the field under investigation rather than dissipates his time and energy in numerous fields which may not be related. Fortunately, the policy of having the specialist in training spend some time in general surgery, and vice versa, is gaining favor during recent years; it is nevertheless true that after completion of their training, surgeons in the two fields for the most part revert in practice to their original calling. Even those who make a special appeal to avoid specialism seem to be specialists themselves. Unfortunately, this specialism cannot be avoided if the surgical profession is to develop talent of the highest type, because the surgical field is becoming too broad for any one man to become proficient in more than one or two of its branches.

In spite of the inability to prevent specialism we should nevertheless insist that in his training period the specialist should have a significant exposure to general surgery and the general surgeon should have training in more than one or two specialties.

In this volume are included cardiovascular, thoracic, orthopedic, neurologic, plastic gynecologic and urologic surgery; ophthalmology and otolaryngology have been omitted largely because these two specialties are less distinctly related to general surgery than those included. The greatest change has been made in the massive enlargement of the material on cardiovascular surgery. In the few years lapsing since the first edition, that specialty has developed tremendously. We have reason to believe it will develop just as spectacularly during the next few years. With few exceptions, improvements and revisions in all chapters have been extensive. The number of illustrations has been increased markedly.

As in the first edition, we have presented herein pertinent data on indications for operation, pre- and postoperative care, results, and so forth, in order to maintain a balance of information. We have long since learned that perfection in technic alone does not make a surgeon. A knowledge of surgical physiology and other basic sciences is essential for good care.

The editor wishes to thank the various contributing authors for their splendid contributions and for their excellent cooperation. The most valuable suggestions made by numerous surgical friends are hereby acknowledged. The untiring effort of Miss Annabel Wheeler in the preparation of the text is likewise acknowledged. At all times the publishers have been most helpful and cooperative.

WARREN H. COLE

Introduction

Doctor Cole's accomplishments as a general surgeon, now recognized throughout this and other countries, as well as his experience in contributing to surgical literature and in editing a textbook on general surgery, are a guarantee of the highest standards in a text on the operative technic in specialty surgery. Of the greatest importance is the choice of contributing authors in the specialties. In this, Doctor Cole has been most successful; he has chosen recognized leaders, well known for their skill as operating surgeons—surgeons who have had previous training in general surgery. This is especially evident in the chapters on the operative treatment of fractures, the neurosurgical procedures, and in the radical surgery for carcinoma in gynecological patients.

A serious fault of so many of the older books on operative surgery has been carefully avoided in this text. There are no discussions or illustrations of obsolete and discarded procedures that occupy so much space in many texts on operative surgery. Chosen for his known accomplishments and recent contributions to the technic of the various fields, each author gives in detailed fashion a clear description of the procedure he has found to be most effective for each lesion.

In the chapter on plastic surgery, I was most interested in the emphasis placed on the basic and sound principles of wound healing and tissue repair. It is a relief to see so much space devoted to immediate débridement and plastic repair of soft part wounds, especially of the face and hands, and so little space given to the repair of nasal deformities.

In the chapter on thoracic surgery, precautions and pitfalls relating to the various operative procedures are discussed in a clear and arresting fashion—an excellent addition to the detailed discussion of the steps and technics of the operations described.

The most recent advances that have been made in surgery have been in the field of cardiovascular operations. The indications for and the technics of these operations have been very largely determined by the younger generation of American surgeons and the desire for training with them has become increasingly evident in the last three or four years as shown in the number of foreign surgeons desiring graduate training in this field. Doctor Cole has been very wise and fortunate in his choice of men to discuss surgery of the heart and of the blood vessels. One of the very interesting developments in the last two or three years has been the use of plastic material which can be measured and cut and patterned for replacement in resected areas of arteries and veins. In fact, some surgeons at the present time use them in preference to preserved vascular grafts.

Few surgical treatises give so valuable and detailed information on operative procedures in the field of the locomotor and skeletal systems. Due consideration has been given to the increasing use of open operations in the treatment of fractures, with sound analysis of indications for these procedures and the technics to be used.

The material on neurosurgery, including the central nervous system,

the peripheral nerves and the autonomic nervous system, could be a monograph in itself for the contributors are well known authorities in these fields. Certainly it is evident after reading these sections that a thorough knowledge of neurology is as essential as experience in the technics of general and neurological surgery for anyone attempting this kind of operative work.

The radical surgery for cancer is gaining more recognition throughout this country. But equally well appreciated is the fact that those carrying out these very radical procedures must be surgeons with wide experience in general surgery. This is well illustrated in the radical procedures for carcinoma of the uterus—extensive *en masse* resection of the iliac and pelvic lymph nodes—and for women with localized spread to the bladder—a cystectomy with ureterosigmoidostomy. Gynecologists and urologists without general surgical training hesitate to transplant ureters into the colon and compromise with cutaneous ureterostomies, or incomplete resections of the bladder.

For one writing an introduction to this volume, the most interesting features are the choice of the contributors, the emphasis on the part of each to give in detail the procedure and technic for each lesion which, in his own experience, has given the best results and, finally, the evidence in many of the chapters of the importance of training and experience in general surgery before undertaking the surgery of the specialities.

ALLEN O. WHIPPLE

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