

**75 YEARS
OF
MEDICAL PROGRESS**

EDITED BY LOUIS H. BAUER



1878-1953

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS of MEDICAL PROGRESS 1878-1953



Edited and with a Foreword by
LOUIS H. BAUER, M.D., F.A.C.P.
*Secretary-General, The World Medical Association;
Past President, The American Medical Association.*

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CONTRIBUTORS

BARTEMEIER, LEO H.

BEECHER, HENRY K.

BLALOCK, ALFRED

BRINKHOUS, KENNETH

BRYNER, ULRICH R.

COMPERE, CLINTON L.

COOLEY, DENTON A.

DEBAKEY, MICHAEL E.

DOWDY, ANDREW H.

EASTMAN, NICHOLSON J.

FRENCH, JOHN D.

HAMM, WILLIAM G.

HIRSCHMAN, LOUIS J.

KANTHAK, FRANK F.

LEMPERT, JULIUS

McLAIN, MILLARD H.

McQUARRIE, IRVINE

MORRISSEY, JOHN H.

NANSON, ERIC M.

RUSK, HOWARD A.

SIMMONS, JAMES S.

SULZBERGER, MARION B.

VAIL, DERRICK

WARREN, STAFFORD L.

WILBUR, DWIGHT L.

WITTEN, VICTOR H.

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

LEO H. BARTEMEIER, M.D.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Wayne University College of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; Visiting Professor of Psychiatry, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

HENRY K. BEECHER, M.D.

Henry I. Dorr Professor of Research in Anesthesia, Harvard University; Director of the Department of Anesthesia, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

ALFRED BLALOCK, M.D.

Professor of Surgery and Director of the Department of Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Surgeon-in-Chief, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.

KENNETH BRINKHOUS, M.D.

Professor of Pathology, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

ULRICH R. BRYNER, M.D.

President, American Academy of General Practice, 1953-1954, Salt Lake City, Utah.

CLINTON L. COMPERE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Assistant Professor, Department of Bone and Joint Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois.

DENTON A. COOLEY, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY, M.D.

Judson Taylor Professor of Surgery, Baylor University College of Medicine,
Houston, Texas.

ANDREW H. DOWDY, M.D., F.A.C.R.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Radiology, School of Medicine,
University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

NICHOLSON J. EASTMAN, M.D.

Professor of Obstetrics, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,
Baltimore, Maryland.

JOHN D. FRENCH, M.D.

Chief, Neurosurgery, Veterans Administration Hospital, Long Beach, California; Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

WILLIAM G. HAMM, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery (Plastic), Emory University School of Medicine, Emory University, Georgia.

LOUIS J. HIRSCHMAN, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.P.S. (HON.)

Founder and Emeritus Professor of Proctology, Wayne University Medical College, Detroit, Michigan.

FRANK F. KANTHAK, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Instructor in Surgery (Plastic), Emory University School of Medicine, Emory University, Georgia.

JULIUS LEMPERT, M.D., F.A.A.O.O.

Director of Otologic Surgery, Otologic Research and Postgraduate Teaching? Lempert Institute of Otology, New York, New York; Research Professor of Otology, Tufts Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

MILLARD H. McLAIN, M.D.

Department of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, California.

IRVINE McQUARRIE, A.B., PH.D., M.D.

Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

JOHN H. MORRISSEY, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Director of Urology, City Hospital of New York; Assistant Attending Urologist, New York Hospital; Urologist, St. Clare's Hospital, New York, New York.

ERIC M. NANSON, M.B., CH.B. (N. Z.), F.R.C.S. (ENG.)

Associate Professor of Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland.

HOWARD A. RUSK, M.D.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University College of Medicine, New York, New York.

JAMES S. SIMMONS, M.D., PH.D., DR.P.H., S.D. (HON.)

Brigadier General, U. S. Army (Retired); Dean and Professor, Harvard University, School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts; Former Chief Preventive Medicine Service, Office of the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, 1940-1946.

MARION B. SULZBERGER, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; and Director of Dermatology, Skin and Cancer Unit, University Hospital, New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, New York, New York.

DERRICK VAIL, M.D.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois.

STAFFORD L. WARREN, M.D.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Biophysics, School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

DWIGHT L. WILBUR, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, California.

VICTOR H. WITTEN, M.D.

Instructor in Clinical Dermatology and Syphilology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; Assistant Attending Physician in Dermatology and Syphilology, Skin and Cancer Unit of University Hospital, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; and Assistant Visiting Dermatologist and Syphilologist, Bellevue Hospital, New York, New York.

FOREWORD

ORDINARILY we think of growth as a slow process, easily recognizable after it has occurred, but rarely sufficiently rapid for us to observe it with the naked eye.

In the last seventy-five years, however, doctors and laymen have had an opportunity to watch and marvel at the swift and very visible growth of medical knowledge. During this relatively brief period of time—little more than the span of an ordinary lifetime in these days of increasing longevity—medical scientists have learned more about the nature and treatment of disease, and about its prevention, than in the previous three thousand years.

This is somewhat startling, when stated so bluntly. Yet ordinarily we take it too much for granted. New discoveries and theories are developed with such frequency; new drugs, new treatments, and new methods are presented in so many journals and papers, that it is almost impossible to absorb them all. Even physicians tend to restrict their studies to their own particular fields of medical practice and have only a general idea of the outstanding advances of medicine as a whole.

That is why this book, which summarizes both the story of the past seventy-five years in medicine and the present extent of our knowledge, will be invaluable to all who read it. Nowhere else in print is there a similar compilation of the progress of the last seven decades, combined with a synthesis of modern practice in all the specialties, as seen by specialists themselves. In the field of each specialty, moreover, as well as in the field of general practice, the material, which is presented by nationally recognized experts, is an authoritative clinical summary of many of the best and most advanced techniques.

The unique nature of the book is a result of the First Western Hemisphere Conference of The World Medical Association, which was held in Richmond, Virginia, in April, 1953. The theme of the Conference was the commemoration of seventy-five years of medical progress. Men of distinguished attainments in each of the nineteen medical specialties, as defined by the Advisory Board for Medical Specialties, as well as a representative of general practice, were invited to contribute papers on the history and the present status of their particular fields in medicine. The book is a compilation of these papers, publication of which has been made possible through a grant from the A. H. Robins Co., Inc.

Whoever reads this book and integrates the information in its chapters will have before him a complete picture—the picture of contemporary medicine, an account of the increasing victories of man in his war against disease.

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