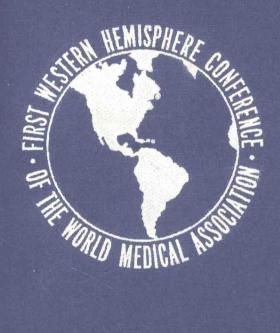
75 YEARS
OF
MEDICAL PROGRESS

EDITED BY LOUIS H. BAUER



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.

LONDON
HENRY KIMPTON
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FOREWORD

RDINARILY 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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