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Geleitwort

Jeder, der im medizinischen Bereich auf das Lesen bzw. die Bearbeitung englischer Literatur angewiesen ist – und das ist heute jeder Mediziner, der sich eingehender mit wissenschaftlichen Fragen auseinandersetzt –, wird es begrüßen, daß das vorliegende, kurzgefaßte Wörterbuch von einem deutschen Verlag übernommen wurde und dadurch in jeder einschlägigen Buchhandlung im deutschsprachigen Raum erhältlich sein wird.

Die Erläuterungen zu den einzelnen Stichworten (ca. 8000) in englischer Sprache sind so kurz und prägnant, aber auch so einfach formuliert, daß auch jeder Medizinstudent oder Arzt, der keine profunden Kenntnisse der englischen Sprache besitzt, aber die medizinische Nomenklatur beherrscht, keine Schwierigkeiten hinsichtlich des Verständnisses haben wird.

Andererseits wird jeder Übersetzer medizinischer Fachpublikationen, Vorträge etc. ins Englische, das Buch schnell und praktisch handhaben können und für die Definitionen in englischer Sprache besonders dankbar sein.

Ich glaube, daß die gelungene Auswahl der wichtigsten Fachausdrücke, aber u. a. auch der immer wieder im Fachschrifttum erscheinenden Abkürzungen (S. 387–392) das Buch zu einem unentbehrlichen Helfer aller Leser und Übersetzer englischer Fachliteratur werden läßt und gleichzeitig auch in einfacher Form zur eigenen Vervollkommenung der medizinischen Fachsprache des Benutzers beiträgt.

Prof. Dr. med. H. Kleinsorge
Mannheim/Heidelberg

Preface to the Thirteenth Edition

The 13th edition of this dictionary has been extensively revised in both content and appearance. In an effort to bring the material completely up to date, medical experts were engaged to review and check appropriate sections of the dictionary and to add new definitions where necessary. In addition, many of the illustrations have been redrawn and new illustrations have been included.

The appendices to the dictionary have also been considerably revised and expanded. There is a new appendix on Side-Room Testing, which includes descriptions of urine, blood, serum, plasma and faeces testing, and one on Body Fluid Tests, which gives normal ranges for each test in both traditional and SI units. A Vitamins Table has been added listing, for each vitamin, its functions, properties, deficiency, sources and daily requirement. Finally, an important section has been included on the SI or International System of Units, which gives conversion scales for certain chemical pathology tests.

The format of this edition is visibly different from its predecessors. A slightly larger page size has been adopted, which should make for more comfortable reading and easier handling.

I am indebted to many people who have helped to make this major revision possible, and to them I offer my sincere thanks. I hope that the users of the dictionary will agree that the changes undertaken are a substantial improvement.

Edinburgh, 1978

NANCY ROPER

Preface to the Eleventh Edition

On the death of Lois Oakes in 1952 the royalties from, and interests in, her dictionary were bequeathed to the Royal College of Nursing. As their chosen editor, with the guidance of a sub-committee, I have attempted the formidable task, not only of bringing the text up to date, but also of including the etymology and a biographical note where appropriate, so that this eleventh edition will make history in being the first dictionary *for nurses* to appear in this style.

With ever-increasing specialization it has been necessary to enlist the help of many specialists, to whom I am deeply indebted for without their help and encouragement a complete revision of the dictionary would have been impossible.

To the staff of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, I tender my grateful thanks, especially to Dr Herbert J. Bell, M.B.E., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., and Dr W.V.A. Erskine, M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.M.

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To the sub-committee of the Royal College of Nursing I record my thanks for their guidance.

To the publishers I offer my sincere thanks, for when the task seemed greatest they were ever ready with suggestions to lighten the load.

Now that the dictionary is complete, I hope that those who use it will derive both benefit and pleasure from it. The effort will then have been worth while.

Carlisle, 1961

NANCY ROPER

Guide to pronunciation: Consonants

ch (= tsh) as in cheese (chēz),
stitch (stich),
picture (pik'chér).

j (dzh) judge (juj),
rigid (rij'id).

sh dish,
lotion (lō'-shun).

zh vision (vizh'-n).

ng sing,
think (think).

g Always hard as in good.

r This letter is often left unsounded or is slurred into the preceding vowel. In the combination 'er' (see Vowels) the 'r' is rarely trilled or marked. Where it receives its full consonantal value it is usually placed preceding a vowel; in most other cases its force is determined by individual taste and custom.

th No attempt has been made to distinguish between the breathed sound as in 'think' and the voiced sound as in 'them.'

Accent: The accented syllable is indicated by a slanting stroke at its termination, e.g. fibrositis (fī-brō-sī'-tis).

Guide to pronunciation: Vowels

a	as in	fat, back, tap.
ā		lame, brain (brān), vein (vān).
á		far, calf (káf), heart (hárt), coma (kō'má).
e		flesh, deaf (def), said (sed).
ē		he, tea (tē), knee (nē), anaemia (an-ē'-mi-á).
é		there, air (ér), area (ér'-i-á).*
i		sit, busy (biz'-i).
ī		spine, my, eye, tie.
o		hot, cough (kof).
ō		bone, moan (mōn), dough (dō).
u		gum, love (luv), tough (tuf), colour (kul'-ér).
ū		mute, due, new, you, rupture (rup'-tūr).
aw		saw, gall (gawl), caul (kawl), water (waw'tér).
oi		loin, boy.
oo		foot, womb (woom), wound (woond), rude (rood).
ow		cow, sound (sownd), gout (gowt).

*When followed by 'r', 'e' is often sounded as in 'her' or as 'u' in 'fur' (for example, 'ferment'); in '-er' as a final unaccented syllable, the 'e' is sometimes more or less elided (drawer, tower). See also consonant 'r'.

Abbreviations used in definitions

adj.	Adjective
adv.	Adverb
Ar.	Arabic
A.S.	Anglo-Saxon
cf.	[L. <i>confer</i>] Compare
dim.	Diminution of
dub.	Dubious
E.	English
e.g.	[L. <i>exempli gratia</i>] For example
Etym.	Etymology
F.	French
G.	Greek
i.e.	[L. <i>id est</i>] That is
It.	Italian
L.	Latin
L.L.	Late Latin
M.E.	Middle English
n.	Noun
N.L.	New Latin
O.N.	Old Norse
Opp.	Opposite to
<i>per se</i>	As such
Pg.	Portuguese
pl.	Plural
q.v.	[L. <i>quod vide</i>] Which see
Sing.	Singular
Syn.	Synonym
v.	Verb
v.i.	Intransitive verb
v.t.	Transitive verb

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A

abacterial (ā-bak-tē'-ri-āl) [G. *a-*, not; *bakterion*, small rod]. Without bacteria. A word used to describe a condition, for instance inflammation, not caused by bacteria.

abdomen (ab-dō'-men) [L. *belly*]. The largest body cavity, immediately below the thorax, from which it is separated by the diaphragm. It is enclosed largely by muscle and fascia, and is therefore capable of change in size and shape. It is lined with a serous membrane, the peritoneum, which is reflected as a covering over most of the organs. **acute a.**, pathological condition within the belly requiring immediate surgical intervention. **pendulous a.**, a relaxed condition of the anterior wall, allowing it to hang down over the pubis. **scaphoid a.** (navicular), concavity of the anterior wall—abdominal, adj.

abdominopelvic (ab-dom'-in-ō-pel'-vik) [L. *abdomen*, belly; L. *pelvis*, basin]. Pertaining to the abdomen and pelvis or pelvic cavity.

abdominoperineal (ab-dom'-in-ō-per-in-ē'-al) [L. *abdomen*, belly; G. *perineos*, space between the anus and the scrotum]. Pertaining to the abdomen and perineum. **a. excision of the rectum**, above a cancerous growth of the rectum, the bowel is divided and the proximal end brought out on to the abdominal wall as a permanent colostomy. The distal portion is dissected down, the growth and glands freed and these are then removed by the perineal route.

abduct (ab-duk't) [L. *abductum*, from *abducere*, to lead away]. To draw away from the median line of the body. Opp. to adduct.

abduction (ab-duk'-shun) [L. *abductum*, from *abducere*, to lead away]. The act of abducting away from the midline. Opp. to adduction.

abductor (ab-duk'-tor) [L. *abducere*, to lead away]. A muscle which, on contraction, draws a part away from the median line of the body. Opp. to adductor.

aberration (ab-er-rā'-shun) [L. *aberrare*, to wander from]. A deviation from normal. **mental a.**, a mild mental abnormality. **optical a.**, imperfect focus of light rays by a lens—aberrant, adj.

ablation (ab-lā'-shun) [L. *ablatio*, take

away]. Removal. In surgery, excision or amputation—ablative, adj.

abort (ab-awrt') [L. *abortus*, premature birth]. To terminate before full development.

abortifacient (ab-awr-ti-fā'-shi-ent) [L. *abortus*, premature birth; *facere*, to make]. Causing abortion. Drug or agent inducing expulsion of a non-viable fetus.

abortion (ab-awr'-shun) [L. *abortus*, premature birth]. 1. Abrupt termination of a process. 2. Expulsion from uterus of product of conception before it is viable, i.e. before the end of the 28th week. **complete a.**, the entire contents of the uterus are expelled. **criminal a.**, intentional evacuation of uterus on any other than medical grounds. **habitual a.**; preferable syn. **recurrent a.**, term used when abortion recurs in successive pregnancies. **incomplete a.**, part of the fetus or placenta is retained within the uterus. **induced a.** (also called 'artificial'), intentional evacuation of uterus. **inevitable a.**, one which has advanced to a stage where termination of pregnancy cannot be prevented. **missed a.**, early signs and symptoms of pregnancy disappear and the fetus dies, but is not expelled for some time. See **MOLE** under which carneous mole is defined. **septic a.**, one associated with uterine infection and rise in body temperature. **therapeutic a.**, intentional termination of a pregnancy which is a hazard to the mother's life and health. **threatened a.**, slight blood loss per vaginam whilst cervix remains closed. **tubal a.**, a tubal pregnancy that dies and is expelled from the fimbriated end of the Fallopian tube—abortive, adj.

abortus fever. See **BRUCELLOSIS**.

abrasion (ab-rā'-zhun) [L. *abraderē*, to scrape off]. Superficial injury to skin or mucous membrane from scraping or rubbing; excoriation—abrade, v.t.; to undergo abrasion, v.i.

abreaction (ab-rē-ak'-shun) [L. *ab*, away; *re-*, again; *agere*, to do]. An emotional reaction resulting from recall of past painful experiences relived in speech and action during psychoanalysis or under the influence of light anaesthesia, or drugs. See **NARCOANALYSIS**, **CATHARSIS**.

abscess (ab'-ses) [L. *abscessus*, a going away]. Localized collection of pus produced by pyogenic organisms. May be acute or chronic. **alveolar a.**, at the root

of a tooth. **Brôdie's a.**, chronic osteomyelitis (q.v.) occurring without previous acute phase. **cold a.**, one occurring in the course of such chronic inflammation as may be due to the tubercle bacillus (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*). **psaos a.**, a cold abscess in the psoas muscle, resulting from tuberculosis of the lower dorsal or lumbar vertebrae.

Abstem (ab'-stem). Citrated calcium carbimide. Analogue of disulfiram (q.v.).

acapnia (a-kap'-ni-â) [G. *a-*, not; *kapnos*, smoke]. Absence of CO₂ in the blood, sometimes used synonymously with hypocapnia (q.v.); can be produced by hyperventilation—*acapnial*, adj.

acatalasia (a-kat-al-âz'-i-â) Absence of the enzyme catalase; predisposes to oral sepsis.

accommodation (ak-kom-mo-dâ'-shun) [L. *accommodare*, to adapt]. Adjustment, e.g. the power of the eye to alter the convexity of the lens according to the nearness or distance of objects, so that a distinct image is always retained—*accommodative*, adj.

accouchement (ak-koosh'-mong) [F.]. Delivery in childbirth. Confinement.

accoucheur (ak-koo-shêr') [F.]. A man skilled in midwifery; an obstetrician.

accoucheuse (ak-koo-shêz') [F.]. A midwife; a female obstetrician.

accretion (ak-krê'-shun) [L. *accrescere*, to grow]. An increase of substance or deposit round a central object; in dentistry, an accumulation of tartar round the teeth—*accrete*, adj., v.t. and i.; *accretive*, adj.

acebutolol (ac-bû'-to-lol). A β -adrenoceptor blocking agent used in cardiac dysrhythmias, angina pectoris and hypertension.

acephalous (a-kef'-a-lus) [G. *a-*, not; *kephale*, head]. Without a head.

acetabuloplasty (as-et-ab'-ûl-ô-plas-ti) [L. *acetabulum*, vinegar cup; G. *plassein*, to form]. An operation to improve the depth and shape of the hip socket (*acetabulum*); necessary in such conditions as congenital dislocation of the hip and osteoarthritis of the hip—*acetabuloplastic*, adj.

acetabulum (as-et-ab'-ûl-um) [L.]. A cup-like socket on the external surface of the innominate bone, into which the head of the femur fits to form the hip joint—*acetabula*, pl.

acetarsol (â-set-âr'-sol). An organic compound of arsenic, used in amoebiasis (q.v.), usually to supplement emetine.

acetate (as'-ê-tât). A salt of acetic acid.

acetazolamide (a-set-az-ol'-a-mîd). Diuretic. Inhibits action of carbonic anhydrase, the kidney enzyme controlling excretion of bicarbonate; results in excretion of increased amount of alkaline urine. As the body has limited reserves of bicarbonate, acetazolamide is self-limiting in action. Also used in glaucoma and epilepsy.

acetic acid (as-ê'-tik as'-id). The acid present in vinegar. Three varieties are used medicinally: (1) glacial acetic acid, sometimes used as a caustic; (2) ordinary acetic acid, used in urine testing; (3) dilute acetic acid, used occasionally in cough mixtures.

acetoacetic acid (as-ê'-to as-ê'-tik as'-id). Syn., diacetic acid. A monobasic keto acid. Produced at an interim stage in the oxidation of fats in the human body. In some metabolic upsets, e.g. acidosis and diabetes mellitus, it is present in excess in the blood and escapes in the urine. (It changes to acetone if urine is left standing.) The excess acid in the blood can produce coma.

acetohexamide (as-ê'-ô-heks'-â-mîd). One of the sulphonylureas. Antidiabetic agent.

acetomenaphthone (a-sêt-o-men-af'-thôn). A synthetic form of vitamin K (q.v.). It is active orally; used in the treatment of obstructive jaundice and in prophylaxis against neonatal haemorrhage.

acetonaemia (as-ê'-tô-nê'-mî-â) [L. *acetum*, vinegar; G. *haima*, blood]. Acetone bodies in the blood—*acetonaemic*, adj.

acetone (as'-ê-tôn). Inflammable liquid with characteristic odour; valuable as a solvent. **a. bodies**, a term which includes acetone, acetoacetic acid and β -hydroxybutyric acid. See KETOSIS.

acetonuria (as-ê'-tô-nû'-rî-â) [L. *acetum*, vinegar; G. *ouron*, urine]. Excess acetone bodies in the urine causing a characteristic sweet smell—*acetonuric*, adj.

acetophenetidin (a-sêt-o-fen-et'-id-in). Phenacetin (q.v.).

acetylcholine (as-et-il-kô'-lên). Chemical substance released from nerve endings to activate muscle, secretory glands and other nerve cells. The fibres releasing

this chemical are termed 'cholinergic.' Hydrolysed into choline and acetic acid by the enzyme acetylcholinesterase, which is present in blood and other tissues.

acetylcysteine (as-et-il-sis'-tên). A mucolytic agent, invaluable in mucoviscidosis (q.v.).

acetylsalicylic acid (a-set-il-sal'-is-il-ik). Aspirin; an extensively used mild analgesic. It forms the basis of a large number of proprietary analgesic tablets. Gastric irritant. Can cause haematemesis. Aspirin (q.v.) is now the official BP name.

achalasia (ak-a-lä'-zi-ä) [G. *a-*, not; *chalis*, relaxation]. Failure to relax. **cardiac a.**, food fails to pass normally into stomach, though there is no obvious obstruction. The oesophagus does not demonstrate normal waves of contraction after swallowing; this prevents the normal relaxation of the cardiac sphincter. Associated with loss of ganglion cells within muscle layers of at least some areas of the affected oesophagus.

Achilles tendon (ak-il'-ēz ten'-don) [G. *Achilles*; L. *tendo*, tendon]. The tendinous termination of the soleus and gastrocnemius muscles inserted into the heel bone (os calcis).

achillorrhaphy (ak-il-or'-af-i) [G. *Achilles*; *rhaphe*, a seam]. The operation of stitching the Achilles tendon.

achillotomy (ak-il-ot'-om-i) [G. *Achilles*; *tome*, a cutting]. Subcutaneous division of Achilles tendon.

achlorhydria (a-klor-hi'-dri-ä) [G. *a-*, not; *chloros*, green; *hydrios*, from *hydor*, water]. The absence of free hydrochloric acid in the stomach. Found in pernicious anaemia and gastric cancer—achlorhydric, adj.

acholia (a-köl'-i-ä) [G. *a-*, not; *chole*, bile]. Absence of bile—acholic, adj.

acholuria (a-kol-ū'-ri-ä) [G. *a-*, not; *chole*, bile; *ouron*, urine]. Absence of bile pigment from the urine. See JAUNDICE—acholuric, adj.

achondroplasia (a-kon-drō-plä'-zi-ä) [G. *a-*, not; *chondros*, cartilage; *plassein*, to form]. An inherited condition characterized by arrested growth of the long bones resulting in dwarfism. The intellect is not impaired. Syn., fetal rickets—achondroplastic, adj.

achromatopsia (a-krō-mat-op'-zi-ä) [G.

a-, not; *chroma*, colour; *opsis*, vision]. Complete colour blindness as only monochromatic grey is visible.

Achromycin (ak-rō-mī'-sin). Tetracycline (q.v.).

achylia (a-kī'-li-ä) [G. *a-*, not; *chylos*, juice]. Absence of chyle (q.v.)—achylic, adj.

acid (as'-id) [L. *acidus*, sour]. Any substance which in solution gives rise to an excess of hydrogen ions. Identified (1) by turning blue litmus paper red; (2) by being neutralized by an alkali with the formation of a salt. (In popular jargon, any substance with a sour taste.)

acidaemia (as-id-ē'-mi-ä) [L. *acidus*, sour; G. *haima*, blood]. Abnormal acidity of the blood, giving increased hydrogen ions, and a below normal pH (q.v.). **respiratory a.**, caused by poor ventilation and increasing carbon dioxide. **metabolic a.**, caused by increased lactic acid production in muscles. See ACIDOSIS—acidaemic, adj.

acid-base balance. Equilibrium between the acid and base elements of the blood and body fluids.

acid-fast. In bacteriology, describes an organism which, when stained, does not become decolo(u)rized when subjected to dilute acids, e.g. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

acid-alcohol-fast. Stained bacteria, resistant to decolo(u)rization by alcohol as well as acid.

acidity (as-id'-it-i) [L. *acidus*, acid]. The state of being acid or sour. The degree of acidity can be determined and interpreted on the pH scale, pH 6.9 denoting a very weak acid and pH 1 a caustic acid.

acidosis (as-id-ō'-sis) [L. *acidus*, sour; G. *-osis* condition]. Depletion of the body's alkali reserve, with resulting disturbance of the acid-base balance. **Acidaemia**. **renal tubular a.**, metabolic abnormality. See KETOSIS—acidotic, adj.

acid phosphatase (fos'-fa-tāz). Enzyme in seminal fluid. Secreted by prostate gland.

aciduria (as-id-ū'-ri-ä) [L. *acidus*, sour; G. *-osis* condition]. Excretion of an acid urine. Current work suggests there might be some association with mental subnormality.

acini (as'-in-i) [L.]. Minute sacculles or alveoli, lined or filled with secreting cells. Several acini combine to form a

lobule—acinus, sing.; acinous, acinar, adj.

acme (ak'-mē) [G. *akme*, prime]. 1. Highest point. 2. Crisis or critical state of a disease.

acne, acne vulgaris (ak'-nē vul-gar'-is). A skin condition common in adolescence, in which blackheads (comedones) are associated with a papular and pustular eruption of the pilosebaceous follicles. Usual sites are the face, neck and upper part of chest and back. See ROSACEA.

acneiform (ak-nē'-i-form). Resembling acne.

acriflavine (ak-ri-flā'-vēn). Orange-red, soluble powder. Powerful antiseptic, used as a 1:1000 solution for wounds, and 1:4000 to 1:8000 for irrigation. Acriflavine emulsion is a bland wound dressing containing liquid paraffin. Proflavine and euflavine are similar compounds.

acroarthritis (ak-rō-arth-rī'-tis) [G. *akron*, extremity; *arthron*, joint; *-itis*, inflammation]. Inflammation of the joints of hands or feet.

acrocephalia; acrocephaly (ak-rō-kef'-ā-li-ā) [G. *akron*, extremity; *kephale* head]. A congenital malformation whereby the top of the head is pointed—acrocephalic, acrocephalous, adj.

acrocephalosyndactyly (āk-rō-kef'-a-lō-sin-dak'-til-i) [G. *akron*, extremity; *kephale*, head; *syn.* with; *daktylos*, digit]. A congenital malformation consisting of a pointed top of head, with webbed hands and feet. Acrocephalosyndactylism. See SYNDACTYLY.

acrocyanosis (ak-rō-sī-an-ō'-sis) [G. *akron*, extremity; *kyanos* blue; *-osis*, condition]. Coldness and blueness of the extremities due to circulatory disorder—acrocyanotic, adj.

acrodynia (ak-rō-din'-i-ā) [G. *akron*, extremity; *odyne*, pain]. Painful reddening of the extremities such as occurs in pink disease (q.v.).

acromegaly (ak-rō-meg'-a-li) [G. *akron*, extremity; *megas*, large]. Enlargement of the hands, face and feet, occurring in an adult due to disturbed function of the pituitary gland—acromegalic, adj.

acromicria (ak-rō-mik'-ri-ā) [G. *akron*, extremity; *mikros*, small]. Smallness of the hands, face and feet, probably due to deficiency of growth hormone from the pituitary gland.

acromioclavicular (ak-rō-mi-ō-kla-vi'-

kū-lār) [G. *akron*, extremity; *omos*, shoulder; L. *clavicula*, dim. of *clavis*, key]. Pertaining to the acromion process (of scapula) and the clavicle.

acromion (ak-rō'-mi-on) [G. *akron*, extremity; *omos*, shoulder]. The point or summit of the shoulder; the triangular process at the extreme outer end of the spine of the scapula—acromial, adj.

acronyx (ak'-rō-niks) [G. *akron*, extremity; *onyx*, nail]. Ingrowing of a nail.

acroparaesthesia (ak-rō-par-es-thē'-zi-a) [G. *akron*, extremity; *paraesthesia*, misperception]. Tingling and numbness of the hands.

acrophobia (ak-rō-fō'-bi-ā) [G. *akron*, extremity; *phobos*, fear]. Morbid fear of being at a height.

acrylics (a-kril'-iks). A group of thermoplastic substances used in making prostheses—acrylic, adj.

ACTH. Corticotrophin (q.v.).

Acthar gel (ak-thā jel). Given in units to suppress disseminated sclerosis.

Actifed (ak'-ti-fed). Pseudoephedrine (q.v.) and triprolidine (q.v.).

actinic dermatoses. Skin conditions (such as xeroderma pigmentosum, summer prurigo (q.v.) and others) in which the integument is abnormally sensitive to ultraviolet light.

actinism (ak'-tin-izm) [G. *aktis*, ray]. The chemical action of spectral rays—actinic, adj.

actinobiology (ak'-tin-ō-bī-ol'-ōj-i) [G. *aktis*, ray; *bios*, life; *logos*, discourse]. The study of the effects of radiation on living organisms.

Actinomyces (ak-tin-ō-mī'-sēz) [G. *aktis*, ray; *mykes*, fungus]. A genus of parasitic fungus having a radiating mycelium. Also called 'ray fungus.' Many of the antibiotic drugs are produced from this genus.

actinomycin C (ak-tin-ō-mī'-sin). A cytostatic antibiotic useful in Hodgkin's disease and for suppression of the immune reaction in organ transplants.

actinomycin D (ak-tin-ō-mī'-sin). An intravenous cytostatic agent especially useful in Wilms' tumour. Also used in Burkitt's lymphoma. Best results obtained with doses high enough to interfere with the action of FOLIC ACID, a substance required by rapidly dividing cells, but insufficient for really deep depression of the patient's capacity to react immunologically.

actinomycosis (ak-tin-ō-kō'-sis) [G. *aktis*, ray; *mykes*, fungus; -osis, condition]. A disease caused by Actinomycetes, the sites most affected being the lung, jaw and intestine. Granulomatous tumours form which usually suppurate, discharging a thick, oily pus containing yellowish granules ('sulphur granules')—actinomycotic, adj.

actinotherapy (ak-tin-ō-thē'-rap-i) [G. *aktis*, ray; *therapeia*, therapy]. Treatment radiations, similar to those in natural sunlight, but produced by artificial means.

action (ak'-shun) [L. *actio*, from *agere*, to do or to perform]. The activity or function of any part of the body. **antagonistic a.**, performed by those muscles which limit the movement of an opposing group. **compulsive a.**, performed by an individual at the supposed instigation of another's dominant will, but against his own. **impulsive a.**, resulting from a sudden urge rather than the will. **reflex a.**, a specific, involuntary motor or secretory response to a sensory stimulus. **sexual a.**, coitus, cohabitation, sexual intercourse. **specific a.**, that brought about by certain remedial agents in a particular disease, e.g. salicylates in acute rheumatism. **specific dynamic a.**, the stimulating effect upon the metabolism produced by the ingestion of food, especially proteins, causing the metabolic rate to rise above basal levels. **synergistic a.**, that brought about by the co-operation of two or more muscles, neither of which could bring about the action alone.

activator [L. *activus*]. A substance which renders something else active, e.g. the hormone secretin, the enzyme enterokinase. An enzyme activator is called 'co-enzyme' or 'kinase'—activate, v.

active [L. *activus*, active]. Energetic. Opp. to passive (q.v.). **a. hyperaemia**, see HYPERAEMIA. **a. immunity**, see IMMUNITY. **a. movements**, those produced by the patient using his neuromuscular mechanism. **a. principle**, an ingredient which gives a complex drug its chief therapeutic value, e.g. atropine is the active principle in belladonna.

Actrapid (ak'-tra-pid). Neutral insulin injection BP.

acuity (ak-ū'-it-i) [L. *acuere*, to sharpen]. Sharpness, clearness, keenness, distinctness. **auditory a.**, ability to hear clearly and distinctly. Tests include the use of tuning fork, whispered voice and audiometer. In infants, simple sounds,

e.g. bells, rattles, cup and spoon are utilized. **visual a.**, extent of visual perception dependent on the clarity of retinal focus, integrity of nervous elements and cerebral interpretation of the stimulus. Usually tested by Snellen's test types (q.v.) at 6 metres.

acupuncture (ak-ū-punk'-tūr) [L. *acus*, needle; *punctura*, a pricking]. 1. The incision or introduction of fine, hollow tubes into oedematous tissue for the purpose of withdrawing fluid. 2. A technique of insertion of special needles into particular parts of the body for the treatment of disease, relief of pain or production of anaesthesia.

acute (a-kūt') [L. *acutus*, sharp]. Short and severe; not long drawn out or chronic. **a. defibrination syndrome**, (hypofibrinogenaemia), excessive bleeding due to maternal absorption of thromboplastins from retained blood clot or damaged placenta within the uterus. A missed abortion, placental abruption, amniotic fluid embolus, prolonged retention in utero of a dead fetus and the intravenous administration of dextran can lead to ADS. **a. dilatation of the stomach**, sudden enlargement of this organ due to paralysis of the muscular wall. See PARALYTIC ILEUS. **a. heart failure**, cessation or impairment of heart action, in previously undiagnosed heart disease, or in the course of another disease. **a. yellow atrophy**, acute diffuse necrosis of the liver; icterus gravis; malignant jaundice.

acyanosis (a-sī-an-ō'-sis) [G. *a-*, not; *kyanos*, blue; -osis, condition]. Without cyanosis.

acyanotic (a-sī-an-ot'-ik). Without cyanosis; term used to differentiate congenital cardiovascular defects.

acyesis (a-sī-ē'-sis) [G. *a-*, not; *kyesis*, pregnancy]. Absence of pregnancy—acyetic, adj.

acystia (a-sis'-ti-ā) [G. *a-*, not; *kystis*, bladder]. Congenital absence of the bladder—acystic, adj.

Adam's apple. The laryngeal prominence in front of the neck, especially in the adult male, formed by the junction of the two wings of the thyroid cartilage.

adaptability (ad-apt'-a-bil-it-i) [L. *adaptare*, to adjust]. The ability to adjust mentally and physically to circumstances.

Adcortyl (ad-kor'-til). Triamcinalone (q.v.) **a. in orabase**, emollient dental paste for mouth ulcers.

addict (ad'-ikt) [L. *addictum*, from *addicere*, to devote]. One who is unable to resist indulgence in some habit, such as the drug (q.v.) habit—addict, v.t., v.i.; addiction, n.

Addison's disease. Deficient secretion of aldosterone and cortisol from the adrenal cortex, causing electrolytic upset, diminution of blood volume, lowered blood pressure, marked anaemia, hypoglycaemia, great muscular weakness, gastrointestinal upsets and pigmentation of skin. [Thomas Addison, English physician, diagnostician and teacher, 1793–1860.]

adduct (ad-duk't) [L. *ad*, to; *ducere*, to lead]. To draw towards the midline of the body. Opp. to abduct.

adduction (ad-duk'-shun) [L. *ad*, to; *ducere*, to lead]. The act of adducting, drawing towards the midline. Opp. to abduction.

adductor (ad-duk'-tor) [L. *ad*, to; *ducere*, to lead]. Any muscle which moves a part toward the median axis of the body. Opp. to abductor.

adenectomy (ad-en-ek'-to-mi) [G. *aden*, gland; *ektome*, excision]. Surgical removal of a gland.

adenitis (ad-en-ī-tis) [G. *aden*, gland; *-itis*, inflammation]. Inflammation of a gland or lymph node. **hilar a.**, inflammation of bronchial lymph nodes.

adenocarcinoma (ad-en-ō-kār-sin-ō'-mā) [G. *aden*, gland; *karkinos*, crab; *omos*, raw flesh]. A malignant growth of glandular tissue—adenocarcinomatous, adj.; adenocarcinomata, pl.

adenofibroma (ad-en-ō-fī-brō'-mā). See FIBROADENOMA.

adenoid (ad'-en-oid) [G. *aden*, gland; *eidos*, form]. Resembling a gland. See ADENOIDS.

adenoidectomy (ad-e-noid-ek'-to-mi) [G. *aden*, gland; *eidos*, form; *ektome*, excision]. Surgical removal from nasopharynx of adenoid tissue.

adenoids (ad'-en-oidz) [G. *aden*, gland; *eidos*, form]. Enlarged mass of lymphoid tissue in the nasopharynx which can obstruct breathing and interfere with hearing.

adenoma (ad-en-ō'-mā) [G. *aden*, gland; *omos*, raw flesh]. A non-malignant tumour of glandular tissue—adenomatous, adj.; adenomata, pl.

adenomyoma (ad-en-ō-mī-ō'-mā) [G. *aden*, gland; *mys*, muscle; *omos*, raw

flesh]. A non-malignant tumour composed of muscle and glandular elements, e.g. an adenomyoma of the uterosacral ligaments is composed of smooth muscle in which islands of aberrant endometrium are found—adenomyomatous, adj.; adenomyomata, pl.

adenomyosis uteri (ad-en-ō-mī-ō'-sis ū-te-rī) [G. *aden*, gland; *mys*, muscle; *-osis*, condition]. A general enlargement of the uterus due to overgrowth of the myometrium, in which there is a benign invasion of endometrium.

adenopathy (ad-en-op'-a-thi) [G. *aden*, gland; *pathos*, disease]. Any disease of a gland, especially a lymphatic gland—adenopathic, adj.

adenosclerosis (ad-en-ō-skle-rō'-sis) [G. *aden*, gland; *sklerosis*, a hardening]. Hardening of a gland with or without swelling, usually due to replacement by fibrous tissue or calcification—adenosclerotic, adj.

adenosine diphosphate (ad-en-ō'-sin difos'-fāt) ADP. A derivative of phosphoric acid; plays a part in cellular energy currency. After release of some of its energy, ADP becomes adenosine monophosphate; with addition of energy, ADP becomes ADENOSINE TRIPHOSPHATE.

adenosine triphosphate (ad-en-ō'-sin trifos'-fāt) ATP. A derivative of phosphoric acid. The ATP molecule carries the chemical energy released in the body by the breakdown of large molecules from food (catabolism).

adenotonsillectomy (ad-en-ō-ton-sil-ek'-to-mi) [G. *aden*, gland; L. *tonsillae*, tonsils; G. *ektome*, excision]. Surgical removal of the adenoids and tonsils.

adenovirus (ad-en-ō-vī-rus) [G. *aden*, gland; L. *virus*, poison]. A group of DNA-containing viruses composed of 47 serologically distinct types; 31 serotypes have been found in man, and many in various animal species. Some cause upper respiratory infection, others pneumonia, others epidemic keratoconjunctivitis.

adermin (ad'-ēr-min) See PYRIDOXIN.

Adexolin (ad-eks'-o-lin). Proprietary mixture of vitamin A and D.

ADH Antidiuretic hormone (q.v.).

adhesion (ad-hē'-zhun) [L. *ad*, to; *haerere*, to stick]. Abnormal union of two parts, often after inflammation; a band of fibrous tissue which joins such parts. In the abdomen such a band may cause