



***TREATMENT***  
*in*  
***General Practice***

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*Dedicated to my wife*

JANE SMITH BECKMAN

*and our son*

THOMAS HOWELL BECKMAN



## PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

The prodigious upheaval in which the world is now involved has deeply affected the science and art of medicine. Great numbers of young men and women in the armed forces and of individuals of all ages in civilian life have been forced into unaccustomed types of existence. Unprecedented migrations have occurred. Larger numbers of people have been brought under medical observation than ever before in history. Many physicians are today in charge of wards and even entire hospitals filled with cases of a single disorder of which in times gone by they perhaps saw only a case or two a year. Many others are dealing *en masse* with serious diseases whose names were scarcely known to them before the Germans and the Japanese erupted. Nor is it only those on foreign service who are affected; for back at home the leaven is also at work and considerable changes have taken place in medical education and practice. Old concepts have fallen and new ones have arisen, and in some cases fallen too; laboratory research has been stimulated; facilities for large-scale clinical investigations have become available; fresh minds have been brought to bear on problems both new and old; and notable additions have been made to our knowledge and understanding.

I have attempted to keep abreast of these numerous developments, to evaluate them, and to present them in a form which would be immediately usable to the medical student and the practicing physician. The revision for this edition of the book, as for that of its predecessors, has been as completely unsparing as progress itself is ruthless. In bringing all of the subjects up to date many of them have of necessity been completely rewritten. In addition, the following entities are included for the first time: *Acute Infectious Lymphocytosis, Ainhum, Airsickness, Anaphylactic Shock, Atypical or Virus Pneumonia, Benzol Poisoning, Blast Syndrome, Boutonneuse Fever, Bullis Fever, Cardiogenic Shock, Cerebral Shock, Chemical Burns, Crush Syndrome, Dimorphic Anemia, Epidemic Influenza, Gas Gangrene, Human Serum Jaundice, Idiopathic Hypoprothrombinemia, Orogenital Syndrome, Periodic Mastalgia, Phosphorus Poisoning, Primary Shock, Rh Factor Syndromes, Salmonella Food Poisoning, Secondary Shock, Shellfish Poisoning, Subclassical Deficiency States, Sulfonamide Sensitization, Surgical Shock, Thermogenic Anhidrosis, Toxoplasmosis.*

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MILWAUKEE

HARRY BECKMAN



## PREFACE

The neglect of thorough and painstaking teaching of therapeutics in this country is not so often the subject of serious consideration in our medical councils as it well might be. With only a few notable exceptions, the medical schools seem content if there is presented within their halls, usually to Junior students who have had as yet practically no contact with the sick, a ridiculously inadequate course of lectures, the rest being left to the teachers in the departments of medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, etc. And these latter seem to shift the responsibility largely onto the gods, not through any culpability upon their part, but simply because in their immersion in the task of acquainting the student with the prodigious methodology of modern diagnosis no time is left for an exhaustive consideration with him of the treatment of disease. Hence it is that the therapeutic credo of the average young practitioner today contains but two articles: one, that there are certain therapeutic principles that invariably hold and that they need to be varied only in detail in the handling of particular diseases; and, the other, that the art of treatment is one that "comes" if only one has mastered the art of diagnosis.

It is in an attempt to shake, however feebly, the false foundations of these beliefs that the present book has been written. In it each of the principal diseases of man, exclusive of those that by prescriptive right belong within the domain of the legitimate specialties, has had its own peculiar therapy described, as that therapy has been evolved out of the experience of physicians all over the world. The true authors of the book, then, are those men and women whose names appear in the Bibliography. Whenever possible I have presented their work in their own words, but often it has been necessary to abstract and to condense, and not infrequently to present a subject in a manner and perhaps even from a point of view that has apparently little in common with that held by those who reported the original trials and observations. Always, however, I have looked upon myself merely as an editor, and I hope that no more than editorial liberties have been taken in any portion of the book. Of course it has not been possible to keep my own opinion invariably in the background; hence I elected in the beginning to write in the first person so that there might be at no time any confusion as to whose work or views were being presented.

Very humbly I recognize that the rather lengthy presentations of controversies that are to be found here and there in the book will give much offense to all save those who, like myself, have been even more disturbed by the indolent type of pedagogy that seeks sanctuary in the shameful words: "Upon this point we can say very little as the authorities are at present in disagreement." Only as I have thought and taught through the years have I been able to write, a limitation which I suppose every author recognizes. As for the many other shortcomings of the book, I can only assure the reader that, no matter how grievous he finds them, they can in no wise affect him so deeply as they do me, for only I can know with what bright hopes the work was planned and begun several years ago.

HARRY BECKMAN

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### ACUTE INFECTIOUS LYMPHOCYTOSIS

A few years ago Smith (1941) reported two types of lymphocytic reaction of the blood which he designated as acute and chronic infectious lymphocytosis. The acute cases, which were the less frequently seen, manifested a short but striking leukocytosis with only minimal symptoms and physical signs of a nondifferential character. The chronic type was said to follow infection of the upper respiratory tract and to be accompanied by low-grade fever, which persisted for weeks or months, and such symptoms as anorexia, pallor, fatigability, and abdominal pain usually referred to the region of the umbilicus. All the patients were children. Duncan (1943) reported a case corresponding to Smith's acute type but with pronounced abdominal signs and symptoms at the onset and evidences of possible involvement of the nervous system during the first week of the disease. As the result of more extensive experience, Smith (1944) enlarged upon his description of the acute form of the disease and stated that hyperleukocytosis, with a relative and absolute lymphocytosis due to an increase in normal small lymphocytes, constitutes the most important element in the diagnosis. Elevated blood levels are said to persist from three to five weeks, the normal lymphocytes in this disease contrasting sharply with the atypical and abnormal mononuclear elements in infectious mononucleosis and with the lymphoblasts in leukemia; the Paul-Bunnell test, which is usually positive in infectious mononucleosis, is uniformly negative here. Biopsy of the lymph nodes in 2 cases revealed degeneration of the lymph follicles and striking proliferation of the reticuloendothelium of the sinuses. Smith's report of 3 patients from one family and 1 hospital contact, together with Finucane and Philips' (1944) report of an epidemic of 20 cases in a children's ward, indicates that the disease is both infectious and contagious; the possible incubation period seems to be between twelve and twenty-one days. I include a description of acute infectious lymphocytosis because it seems to represent a heretofore unrecognized communicable disease.

#### THERAPY

There is nothing to describe.

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#### AINHUM

Ainhum is a disease which attacks the toes, usually but one toe at a time. A furrow appears at the digitoplantar fold and slowly extends and encircles the toe until it is separated from the foot. There is usually no pain, but the patient is often greatly inconvenienced by the fact that the toe beyond the constriction becomes bulbous and in the late stages dangles in an everted position. The course of the disease is slow, self-amputation usually occurring only after a number of years. Ainhum occurs in the dark-skinned races in India, Africa, South America, and to some extent in the West Indies, and a

few indigenous cases in Negroes have been seen in both Europe and the United States.

The cause of *ainhum* is unknown, though it has been speculatively considered by some to originate as a fungus infection; Spencer (1942) felt that in his case it was probable that the condition was a sequel to the underlying hyperkeratosis from which the patient had suffered for many years.

#### THERAPY

At present the only effective treatment consists in amputation of the involved toe.

### ANTHRAX

(*Woolsorters' Disease, Malignant Pustule*)

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease of animals, especially herbivora, caused by *Bacillus anthracis*. It is transmissible to man, in whom it appears either in the cutaneous, pulmonary or gastro-intestinal form. Workers in hide, hair, bristles, wool, horn, and bone are particularly susceptible, but it may be contracted by butchers, veterinarians, farm laborers, and others in contact with animals; Pinkerton (1939) reported a case contracted through pelting an infected mink. The disease is also occasionally contracted from an infected shaving brush. The incubation period is usually three to five days but may be as short as twelve hours or as long as two weeks. The pustule and edema of the cutaneous form are usually of a distinctive character, but there is often in the beginning considerable disproportion between these local changes and the amount of constitutional disturbance as evidenced by fever, rapid pulse and malaise. Consciousness to the end being characteristic, the appearance of delirium—indicating meningeal involvement—is always an ill omen. The symptoms of the pulmonary and gastro-intestinal forms are not distinctive of the disease and thus the correct diagnosis is often made very late. There are usually about 100 cases of anthrax in man in the United States annually; the mortality rate was formerly very high but the newer types of therapy have brought it down in recent years to about 6 per cent.

Anthrax was described by Hippocrates (460–370 B.C.) in one of the books of Epidemic Diseases thought to have been the authentic work of the Coan master, and it appears to have been well known during the period (732–1096 A.D.) of Arabian and Jewish ascendancy in medicine; but it is of interest to note that Galen (131–201 A.D.) had mistaken Hippocrates' description for that of erysipelas. The strange periodic malady of the middle ages, *malum malannum*, may have been anthrax, which is known with certainty to have been epidemic in the early seventeenth century. I believe the first complete treatise on the disease was that of Chabert, in 1780. Davaine discovered the organism in 1850, Koch demonstrated his cultures in 1876, Pasteur produced a preventive vaccine in 1880, and Sclavo, in 1895, offered the first of the serums which have since been widely used in therapy.

#### THERAPY

**Local Treatment.**—Other than the application of warm boric acid compresses, or of merely sterile gauze to collect the secretions, and the simple

incision of an abscess if it forms, it is nowadays considered that nothing should be done locally except to put the part at rest. Koschucharoff (1938) considered both incision and excision contraindicated on the basis of much experience with anthrax in Bulgaria; he stated that thermocautery might arrest the process if employed in the very early superficial stage but he also felt that there were many reasons operating against its routine employment. Most authorities agree that excision should not be done because of the difficulty of accurately defining the area to be excised and especially for the reason that general dissemination of the malady may be hastened by the manipulations. Enrich, discussing his treatment of 340 cases in the badly infected Bradford district in England, said that the results have been much better since the abandonment of excision in all cases except those in which the pustule is very small and on a site notoriously apt to favor rapid extension, such as the neck; but he insisted that a limb should be fixed by splints and pillows or the head held in position by a towel carried across the forehead and fixed beneath sand-bags. Lucchesi and Gildersleeve (1941), in the United States, followed a strictly "hands off" policy in their treatment of 67 patients without a fatality; so too did Gold (1942), who lost only one of his 60 patients, the fatal case having been inadequately treated systemically.

**Antianthrax Serum.**—The serum made by immunizing horses against virulent anthrax organisms has greatly reduced mortality throughout the world. It is given intravenously, the amount varying somewhat with the location of the lesion and the apparent virulence of the organism, but Gold (1942) stated that from 200 to 500 cc. should be given as an initial dose and that this should be repeated every twelve to twenty-four hours until edema is checked. Some observers have felt that the presence of adenopathy is an indication for the continuance of serum treatment, but Gold found that lymphoid enlargement may persist for days and weeks after the lesion has healed and the patient is on the road to complete recovery and that it gradually disappears without any therapy; control of the edema he therefore held to be the most reliable yardstick in determining whether sufficient serum has been administered in a given case.

In addition to the systemic use of antiserum, Regan advised a number of years ago that the serum also be used locally, by which was meant the injection of 2 to 3 cc. at three or four equidistant points so as to circumscribe the lesion, the needle being inserted from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches subcutaneously in the red indurated border just beyond the blanched zone. It is not generally agreed that the local injections are of value, and Gold was of the opinion that in the only one of his cases in which he used them they only served to spread the infection by the mechanical separation of the tissues which they effected.

**Sulfonamides.**—Gold (1942), reviewing his experience in the treatment of 60 cases of anthrax, stated that he felt the sulfonamide compounds to be a reliable and safe substitute for serum and that they should be given preference in the treatment of anthrax. His average period of hospitalization was 15.3 days in serum-treated cases and only 8.5 days in sulfonamide-treated cases. The difference in the number of work days lost was even more striking; total disability in the serum-treated cases was 37.5 days while in the sulfonamide-treated (sulfapyridine, sulfathiazole or sulfadiazine) it was 15.4 days. In addition, the sulfonamide-treated patients could be kept at home and did not experience the unpleasant reactions associated with serum therapy.

**Neorarsphenamine.**—The drugs of this group have long been employed in

South Africa, but only in recent years has their use begun in other parts of the world. Gilbert (1936) reported a series of 13 cases, 11 of the patients recovering when treated by neoarsphenamine alone. Only one intravenous injection of 0.6 Gm. was usually given, but if the edema persisted after twenty-four hours it was repeated. In all cases in which patients recovered the edema was relieved in thirty-six hours and had disappeared in four days; the patients were ambulatory on the sixth day. Enrich (1933) was also impressed by the value of the arsenicals, but he gave his two doses with an interval of one day between and usually combined the use of antianthrax serum with this newer treatment method. Lucchesi and Gildersleeve (1941), summarizing their experience in 67 cases, felt neoarsphenamine to be the agent of choice unless the patient is afflicted with the internal type of anthrax, or the blood stream has been invaded, or the lesion is on the face or neck; in such instances they preferred to use serum. Gold (1942) wrote that neoarsphenamine did not prove to be of much value when given in addition to serum in a small number of his cases. In Bulgaria, where from 800 to 1100 cases of anthrax occur annually, Koschucharoff wrote, just prior to the outbreak of War II, that serum is used almost exclusively and neoarsphenamine employed only occasionally.

**Penicillin.**—Up to the time of writing in the early spring of 1945, the only report I have seen of the use of this agent in human anthrax was that of Murphy *et al.* (1944), who obtained excellent results with the systemic employment of penicillin in 3 cases. In each instance the inflammatory reaction about the lesion showed prompt regression and the lesion itself underwent rapid involution. It was the feeling of these observers that a total of 200,000 to 400,000 units, given at the rate of 100,000 units per twenty-four hours, would likely prove satisfactory dosage in the average adult case of uncomplicated cutaneous anthrax; it was felt that in cases of visceral anthrax or severe cutaneous anthrax with bacteremia larger doses should undoubtedly be employed, probably preferably by intravenous drip, and that perhaps serum should be given in addition.

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## ASIATIC CHOLERA

There are five major infectious diseases whose entire handling has been taken over quite properly by public health authorities or other specialists of great experience. These five are Asiatic cholera, leprosy, plague, trypanosomiasis and yellow fever; and since they do not nowadays raise problems in treatment for the general practitioner, I shall no longer allot space to a consideration of them in this book.

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## BLACKWATER FEVER

This syndrome, occurring only in malarious individuals, is characterized by sudden onset with a rigor of chill and high fever, vomiting, jaundice, oliguria and finally anuria, usually severe upper abdominal and loin pain, enlarged