GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY

(IN THREE VOLUMES)

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VOLUME I

THE ESOPHAGUS AND STOMACH

Examination of the Patient, and Diagnosis and Treatment of Disorders of the Esophagus and Stomach, including Duodenal Ulcer

FULLY ILLUSTRATED
INCLUDING MANY IN COLORS

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PREFACE

Extraordinary advances during the past three decades in our knowledge of the physiological and clinical aspects of disorders of the digestive tract have necessitated the detachment of the specialty of Gastro-enterology from the broad field of internal medicine. Although the physician who wishes to become proficient in gastro-enterology must be trained first of all as an internist, it is exceedingly difficult for the general internist to be highly skilled and completely informed in this expanded specialty. Nor has it been possible for the general practitioner and the internist who is interested in affections of the alimentary tract to keep abreast of the rapid advances which have been made in the science and practice of gastro-enterology. Long experience in teaching the subject to interns, residents and graduate students who are preparing themselves for the specialty of internal medicine or gastro-enterology has convinced me of the necessity for a comprehensive text on gastro-enterology.

It is fully appreciated that no practicing physician could produce in a lifetime a monograph in this field which would be both exhaustive and authoritative. There are advantages, however, in the systematic recording of general knowledge in a specialty by an experienced physician or group of physicians who have been working together for many years in a teaching institution, and it is this plan which I have followed. The Gastro-intestinal Clinic of the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania has been divided into sections, presided over by trained colleagues who have acquired highly specialized knowledge in their respective departments. Our contacts and collaboration in the clinics, wards and conference rooms have served, I believe, to develop a broad interest in gastro-enterology and in medicine. This relationship has been a constant source of satisfaction to me and, perhaps more than any other factor, strengthened my decision to attempt the formidable task of preparing these volumes.

During the preparation of the text, the constant purpose was to present a discussion of every phase of the subject. Various laboratory and technical procedures are often necessary to the solution of diagnostic problems and to a decision concerning the type of therapy to be employed. All diagnostic aids which have proved to be of practical importance are discussed and their value appraised. Many of the diagnostic problems in gastro-enterology cannot be solved without resort to the laboratory or to a technical diagnostic examination. Because of the great importance of roentgenoscopy in diagnosis, illustrations have been included of representative roentgenograms. Since medicine remains an art and not an exact science, the mechanism and clinical significance of symptoms are emphasized throughout.

Although the purpose has been to include a discussion of every disease and affection of the digestive tract, only those data have been included which in my experience and judgment are of value or definite interest. The bibliography has therefore been made up for the most part of familiar references known to contain original contributions or to expound clearly a thesis or doctrine which cannot be exhaustively discussed in the text. It is hoped that it will supply the interested reader with complete references for the study of most gastro-enterologic problems. At the beginning of each chapter is an outline of its contents, and it is hoped that this arrangement will be of help to the reader when he searches for specific material.

I should like to express my sincere appreciation to those many friends and colleagues who have given unstintingly of their time and advice during the preparation of Volume I. My wife's constant assistance in every phase of the work has been of inestimable value; without her aid, encouragement and companionship the task would have been insurmountable. Every chapter and its bibliography have been critically scrutinized and corrected by my colleague, Dr. Thomas A. Johnson, who gave unsparingly of his time and intellect throughout the course of the preparation of this volume. I am greatly indebted also to my secretary, Miss Katharine Aurandt, and her associate, Mrs. Eleanor S. Warner, whose enthusiastic devotion was unfailing. Dr. Walter Estell Lee, Professor of Surgery, and Dr. Gabriel Tucker, Professor of Laryngology and Esophagology of the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine, have graciously given their permission to include illustrations from their cases. Most of the illustrated pathologic specimens were resected by Dr. Lee. The roentgen illustrations were obtained from the x-ray laboratories of Dr. Arthur Finkelstein and Dr. Bernard P. Widmann of the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and I greatly appreciate their courtesy in making the material available to me. Paintings of the gastroscopic images are from the brush of Miss Ruth W. Williams, who very kindly prepared them under the direction of my colleague, Dr. J. F. Monaghan. I am indebted to Dr. B. B. Vincent Lyon for the use of a number of photomicrographs from a previous publication of his. Finally, I should like to express my appreciation to my taskmasters of the W. B. Saunders Company who, by their unfailing cooperation, have done everything possible to facilitate my efforts.

H. L. Bockus.

Philadelphia, Pa.

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