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DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

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DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

THE enormity of the problems of gastroenterologic disturbances and the high incidence of gastrointestinal ailments among patients coming to the attention of general practitioners and the various specialists necessitate frequent re-evaluation of the scope of and advances in the field of gastroenterology. The short space of time—six years—since the second edition, has brought forth new knowledge in the handling of gastrointestinal dysfunction. A large number of the psychosomatic problems manifested among members of the Armed Forces during World War II and after their return to civilian life are related to the gastrointestinal tract. Both gastroenterologists and psychiatrists have had an opportunity to study these patients from a combined or single approach. One of the major objectives in previous editions—to a greater extent in the second edition—was to elucidate some of these problems; the third edition will attempt to clarify them further.

The psychodynamics and the psychogenesis of this pathological physiology, presenting bizarre clinical pictures which are so often erroneously classified under "nervous indigestion" and a host of similar inadequate diagnoses, are most ably considered in such chapters as those by Franz Alexander, Stewart Wolf, and Thomas P. Almy. In addition, the other contributors have taken into account the psychogenic factors of the various problems discussed in their chapters and have approached the evaluation of them with sound clinical judgment. Practically every chapter has been extensively revised, and many new authors have been added. They include M. I. Grossman, J. P. Quigley, Stewart Wolf, Stanley Cobb, Avery Weisman, Albert Milzer, William Sawitz, Bernard Sarnat, Edward Berk, Mitchell Spellberg, Leon Schiff, Robert Elman, William R. Hewitt, William H. Daniel, Robert Greenblatt, Leo Rigler, and A. Stephens Graham. The chapters have been rearranged especially to facilitate the teaching in gastroenterology. The physiology of the gastrointestinal tract is discussed in its entirety, as groundwork for a thorough understanding of the clinical manifestations.

The very enthusiastic reception accorded previous editions, by students, teachers, and practitioners, has been most gratifying and has stimulated me in the preparation of this new edition. It has been my desire to present the field of gastroenterology in its most modern and scientific aspects. To all contributors who have made this book possible, I am deeply grateful.

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