

Current Therapy

1957

*Latest Approved Methods of Treatment
For The Practicing Physician*

Edited by HOWARD F. CONN, M.D.

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W. B. SAUNDERS COMPANY

Philadelphia & London

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Preface

The swift pace of therapeutic advance continues unslowed. This volume, the ninth in the series that began in 1949, contains within its pages the names and uses of many new drug agents. It contains, even more importantly, many therapeutic recommendations that reflect newly acquired knowledge of the nature of disease processes. There is, then, much here that is new, and much that has been modified and refined on the basis of experience. There is also a good deal of material that is unchanged, and this represents to a considerable extent management of diseases that have already succumbed to our available methods and means of attack. This latter information we feel to be almost as important as the new developments, because the conscientious physician wants assurance that what he is doing, regardless of how long he has been doing it, is the best that can be done today.

It seems hardly necessary to state here that medicine is an art comprised of many skills, and that no one of them, such as diagnosis or treatment, should be emphasized at the expense of others. The editor and the contributors to this book visualize it as a source to be called on only when a thorough and thoughtful diagnosis has been accomplished, and only when an effort has been made to visualize the nature of the disease process and the general measures required to combat it. At this point, the book can provide a useful service by describing for the physician the current thinking of a leading authority or authorities on the therapeutic problem, with an appraisal of the most effective materials and tools that medical science has thus far developed to resolve specific problems of management.

Annual revision has been in our minds an

important feature in this picture of the book's function. Our thinking has been substantiated in the sense that in each annual edition between 30 and 50 per cent of the material has been either new or significantly modified.

As in previous editions, all articles are original and written specifically for this volume. Where a difference of opinion exists, two or more authors have been asked to write separate articles on the same subject or have combined their opinions in one article, as in the section on Diabetes Mellitus. The rotation of new and previous authors in succeeding editions has brought to readers current treatment methods and authoritative opinions from most of the leading medical centers of the world. The annual publication period gives the authors frequent opportunity to introduce new effective drugs, to further amplify use of these drugs, to give a current estimate of the effectiveness of new drugs or to warn of undesirable side effects.

The editor welcomes Dr. Clarence Livingood of Detroit to the Board of Consultants, replacing the late Dr. Paul A. O'Leary of the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Livingood has given much valuable advice and assistance in the preparation of the section on Dermatology for this volume.

As in previous editions, the editor wishes to thank the authors and consultants for their invaluable assistance. The greatest share of credit for the success of the book must be given them. Special thanks are due also to the staff of the W. B. Saunders Company whose help and guidance have been major factors in the success of the publication.

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