Alexis Labhart

Clinical Endocrinology

Theory and Practice

With a Foreword by George W. Thorn

In Collaboration with
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With 400 Figures

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Foreword

Periodically in the evolution of an important branch of clinical medicine there develops a critical need for a textbook which combines with the clinical aspects of disease syndromes an in-depth review of the sciences basic to the disorders discussed, as well as a carefully selected but comprehensive review of pertinent literature. LABHART's *Clinical Endocrinology* revised and translated into English provides for this need in the field of endocrinology in an exemplary manner.

Prof. LABHART has selected his individual authors with great care, and they in turn have provided authoritative monographs. An interesting, useful and informative introduction to each chapter is provided by a tabulation of the dates of important or significant contributions to the field. The chapter subdivisions present in great detail a wide variety of subjects such as embryology, anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, individual hormones and their analogues, biosynthesis, metabolism and regulation of hormone release as well as a full discussion of the clinicopathological correlations. The bibliography is unusually extensive and will provide an important source book for all investigators and students in the field.

It is a tremendous accomplishment that a work of this magnitude, so broad and so extensive, could be brought up to date in its English translation with such a relatively short lag period between the author's revision and the date of publication. This volume will fill an important place in medical libraries as well as providing experts in the field with authoritative source material. Furthermore, in these days of shortened medical school curriculum in the basic sciences the sections in the book concerned with such areas as anatomy, biochemistry and physiology will provide students with an excellent background for their clinical responsibilities.

The translation of a textbook of this magnitude presents a formidable undertaking. Prof. LABHART and his co-authors are to be congratulated for making available to the English literature this updated version of their classic.

Boston, April 1974 GEORGE W. THORN

Preface to the 2nd German Edition

There has been such rapid development in the background knowledge basic to clinical endocrinology that for the second edition everything except the clinical descriptions had to be completely rewritten. Two of the authors involved in the first edition, Prof. K. G. Ober and Prof. T. Zander, were unable to contribute to this edition due to new commitments. Our gratitude is due to Prof. W. E. Schreiner and Dr. P. J. Keller, under Prof. E. Held at the Zurich School of obstetrics and gynecology, who took over and rewrote the chapters on ovary and pregnancy.

Despite the enormous increase in the content, it has been possible to keep the number of pages about the same as in the first edition and avoid the necessity of a two-volume work by using a larger format and omitting many illustrations we had planned to include. We had intended to reproduce a large number of electron micrographs but have had to content ourselves with citing the original papers.

Where it was only possible to refer very briefly to newly discovered facts the original papers are cited. They are quoted in the text by first author and year of publication only, to save space. The lists of references for each chapter have again been divided up into subsections, and they also contain publications not referred to in the text. They can thus be used independently. The publications in the list are a personal selection; preference is given to the most recent reviews and we lay no claim to completeness or citation of first descriptions. Early papers of outstanding significance have been retained in the lists of references alongside the most recent publications on the same subjects.

Almost 20 years ago, when I asked my clinical teacher Prof. Schüpbach, whether he thought I might venture to write a textbook on the total field of endocrinology, he thought for some time before answering in the affirmative, and followed up this reply with the observation that the second edition might be successful. It is not for us to judge whether this has been borne out. However, if we succeed in providing endocrinologists and other specialists with a useful survey of the whole field of clinical endocrinology and the nonclinical disciplines essential to its comprehension before it is broken down into subspecialties, we shall feel we have attained the goal of the second edition.

We are much indebted to Springer-Verlag, to Dr. H. Götze for his kindly advice and unfailing help in the work of planning, and to Mrs. T. Deigmöller for her tireless help in the meticulous work involved in the production of the second edition. We should like to thank our secretaries, Mrs. Wächter-Brandenberg, Miss L. Wagner, Miss M. Schittenhelm, and Miss M. Waldvogel, and the librarians Miss F. Belart and Miss S. Domeisen for their help, our scientific assistant Dr. K. Baumann for the compilation of the subject index, Dr. J. Zapf and Dr. U. Keller for correction of the proofs, and numerous of our colleagues for constructive criticism and advice.

Zurich, April 1971 A. Labhart

Preface to the 1st German Edition

There has been substantial progress in endocrinology over the past 20 years, and the specialty's position within medicine as a whole has changed radically.

The science referred to as endocrinology 20 years ago was concerned predominantly with description and morphology; with the realization that hormones were involved in the regulation of metabolism it has become an integral element of our knowledge of metabolic disorders, and as a result of the discovery of the effects of adrenal hormones on inflammation and the involvement of the pituitary-adrenal axis in resistance mechanisms there is now hardly a single field of medicine that is not bound up with the problems of endocrinology.

During the war years and the period immediately after the war, progress was particularly rapid. Biochemically oriented medicine was undeniably more advanced in the United States than in Europe, where the tradition of medicine based on morphology and bedside observation prevailed; we have attempted to achieve a blend of both these elements in this book.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity of observing American methods of clinical medicine and research during extended stages of study at clinical endocrinology centers in the United States Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston (G. W. THORN), Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore (L. WILKINS), Mayo Clinic, Rochester (R. M. WILDER), University of California medical school (H. D. MOON), and we have kept in close contact and followed developments in America ever since.

Four of the authors (COURVOISIER, HEDINGER, LABHART, and WERNLY) are former students of the late Prof. SCHÜPBACH (Berne), who always kept up to date with the latest developments in endocrinology and had the ability to introduce them into bedside medicine. It was he who first aroused our interest in endocrinology. He took a lively interest in the progress of this book right up to his death.

The idea of writing a textbook on endocrinology was initially proposed by Prof. P. H. ROSSIER. His medical clinic in Zurich, as a site of both day-to-day medical activity and experimental medicine, was well suited to the blend of theory and practice we have tried to achieve. We have tried to adopt the same functional approach to medicine as Prof. ROSSIER. We would not have ventured to embark on this work without his initiative and encouragement.

The kindness of Prof. G. FRANCONI and Prof. C. KAUFMANN made it possible to include pediatric and gynecological endocrinology, without which the work would have been incomplete. We are indebted to Prof. UEHLINGER of Zurich for his valued and unstinting advice and his untiring help in the selection and acquisition of the illustrations, and no less to Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, for their unfailing help in the planning and production of our textbook.

Zurich, December 1956 A. LABHART

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