



# MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

## Diagnosis and Treatment

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*By*

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And

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*Foreword By*

GEORGE MORRIS PIERSOL, M.D.

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## Foreword

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The acute episodes of disease and the emergencies which at times attain life-endangering importance must be regarded as among the most disturbing problems that confront the practitioner of medicine. The recognition of this fact led Dr. Murphy to undertake the preparation of a volume which is unique, in that it is devoted entirely to the diagnosis and treatment of those acute conditions which ordinarily come under the observation of the internist and general practitioner.

Few men are so well qualified to write such a book as is Dr. Murphy. By reason of his long years of service in the practice of internal medicine and in the medical wards of large general hospitals, he has been able to embody in his writings, observations and suggestions that not only represent much careful study, but which are based primarily on an extensive practical clinical experience.

The subjects which are discussed in his book have been selected because, over the years, the author has found them to be the acute conditions with which he has been most frequently confronted. When a physician is faced with some acute episode in the course of a disease, he needs precise information in a concise and readily available form. This volume is the only text with which we are familiar that meets these requirements and makes it possible for the hard pressed doctor to obtain urgently needed help without searching numerous comprehensive medical texts.

Dr. Murphy has sought to make this book essentially practical. To that end, long discussions of etiology and pathology have been sacrificed and diagnosis, especially differential diagnosis, and treatment emphasized. The management of patients has been gone into with great detail, so that the reader can obtain exact information

as to how to carry out the suggested therapies. It will be found that the acute situations with which the doctor is ordinarily confronted are all covered in this volume.

Dr. Murphy is to be congratulated upon having produced a work of unusual value and which reflects his own ideas and experience. It should prove of especial interest not only to medical students and young physicians, but also to those of ripe experience who, nevertheless, are only too often puzzled and disturbed by the acute and dramatic manifestations presented by most medical conditions.

GEORGE MORRIS PIERSOL, M.D.

## Preface to the Sixth Edition

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The object of this book has been, as pointed out in the first edition, to present to students and practitioners of medicine diagnostic procedures and therapeutic measures found most helpful in the management of acute disorders. These often occur with such dramatic suddenness as to tax the physician's experience and diagnostic acumen, and treatment must be instituted promptly, in many instances, if a patient's life is to be saved.

The main purpose of the book has, therefore, remained unaltered. As this is the sixth edition, my colleagues and I from Marquette University School of Medicine take great pleasure and pride in realizing that this type of presentation has a certain demand among students and members of the profession. Great care has been taken in making this revision to keep the book to its present size so that extraneous material is not added. We trust we have done so.

There have been many advances in the practice of medicine. In this edition the following have been particularly revised: the collagen diseases, acute renal failure, liver diseases, and the treatment of acute infections with antibiotics. All have been brought up to date.

My associate authors and I are greatly indebted to Mrs. Grace Treutinger Brophy and Mrs. Margaret O'Neill for their very skillful assistance. Mrs. Brophy has been helping us with the book since the third edition, and we wish to express our deep appreciation to her for her interest and patience, her ability in performing the editing duties in connection with this revision, and for her guidance in the preparation of the manuscript.

FRANCIS D. MURPHY, M.D

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## Preface to the First Edition

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This book is intended for the general practitioner and medical student. For more than 20 years as Clinical Director of the Milwaukee County General Hospital and the Emergency Unit, as a teacher, and as a practitioner, I have observed that while chronic illnesses are managed very satisfactorily, many difficulties are encountered in the care of the acute disorders. What I have put down here is the result of my experience during active medical practice. It has been my belief that the basis of what one teaches should consist of facts which he has proved to his satisfaction.

This book was written with the aim of passing on to the practitioner diagnostic procedures and methods of treatment which have been found helpful in the management of the acute case. Acute disorders are apt to occur with dramatic suddenness, and the physician, when called, must mobilize at once his store of general knowledge and be prepared to act quickly and with precision. If one is working in a hospital fully equipped for such cases, the task is hard enough; but the one who is called to see the patient in the home, at the factory, or on the street is face to face with a critical problem that taxes his skill and judgment to the utmost, and his decision may mean the life or death of the patient.

The size of this book does not warrant the inclusion of a bibliography and lengthy references, but I am not unaware of the many splendid contributions which have appeared in the medical literature and the helpful suggestions I have gained from them. Diagnostic and therapeutic methods have been brought together into what I believe to be a practical plan for the management of the patient. If I have been successful in presenting a few useful hints in diagnosis and treatment, or have served to remind some reader



of information possessed at one time, but now half-forgotten, this book will have fulfilled its purpose.

Finally, I would like to express my cordial thanks to the House Staff of the Milwaukee County Hospital, who have been generous and helpful to me in writing this book, and especially to Miss Audrey Salb for her patience, skillful help, and guidance in the preparation of the manuscript.

FRANCIS D. MURPHY, M.D.

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## Vascular Disease

FRANCIS D. MURPHY, M.D.

### HYPERTENSIVE CEREBRAL VASCULAR CRISIS

"Hypertensive cerebral vascular crisis" is a name applied to a transient attack of amnesia, hemiplegia, or aphasia, or of some other cerebral episode which may occur in any of the stages of essential hypertension but which usually appears in the later stages of the disease. It is characterized by abrupt onset, short duration, and sudden disappearance.

This important syndrome is more properly termed the acute vascular crisis of hypertension, and corresponds to the "vascular crisis of Pal." Other names which have been erroneously given to this syndrome are the "pseudo-uremia" of Volhard, the "hypertensive encephalopathy" of Oppenheim and Fishberg, and the "pseudo-tumor" of Nonne. The latter three are usually manifestations of malignant hypertension or secondary to the hypertension due to chronic nephritis. The syndrome here described is most generally observed in patients with essential benign hypertension.

**Etiology.** Pathogenesis of this spectacular complication of hypertension is still rather vague. It would appear as though the sudden onset of symptoms was brought about by an abrupt rise in blood pressure. Some feel that this is due to marked spasm of the cerebral vascular system or at times may be caused by acute cerebral edema as seen in eclampsia and in acute glomerulonephritis. Others have attempted to show that the arterioles are not spastic but are dilated, resulting in an increased pressure in both the arterial and venous sides of the capillary network. This latter phenomenon may occur in younger individuals in whom cerebral edema may be the chief factor, while it is very likely that a sudden rise of blood pressure in the older age groups is due to the inability