



STAPLES

# ENDOCRINE DIAGNOSIS

*by*  
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S T A P L E S   P R E S S

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# ENDOCRINE DIAGNOSIS

*'Science is organized knowledge'*

HERBERT SPENCER  
*Education, Chap. II*

# Preface

THIS book is the outcome of a life-long interest in endocrinology, of clinical experience, and a certain amount of research work carried out in three European countries. It represents an attempt to co-ordinate our present knowledge of endocrine diseases and their diagnosis with a systematic discussion of the involvement of endocrine factors in the physiology and pathology of the whole organism and in diseases not primarily of endocrine origin. The latter aspect seems to be of special importance as it is becoming increasingly evident that endocrine factors play an important part in the maintenance of health and in shaping the pattern of those diseases which are caused by body reactions to normal and pathological stimuli.

The book is primarily intended for the clinician. It should be useful for the general practitioner as well as for the general physician and for those practising and working in the special branches of medicine. The latter will be able to find information and literature on the connexions between their special fields and endocrinology, and on the implications arising from such connexions. Such elementary facts as are necessary for the understanding of endocrine function and hormonal action have been included, so that the student may also be able to derive full benefit from the book. As much has yet to be learnt about endocrine participation in the causation of disease, possible connexions have been freely discussed, even when the evidence is not altogether conclusive. It has been thought that such discussions would stimulate individual thought and help in the discovery or establishment of new points of view.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with endocrine influences on the different body structures and on the mechanism of the major events of life. The second part contains a systematic description of the endocrine glands and their diseases. To avoid cross-references and to make the two parts independent of each other, an attempt has been made to make most chapters self-contained and self-explanatory even where facts and problems overlap, and some repetition has become inevitable. This arrangement was thought to be of benefit to those readers who want information on certain points rather than to read through a text-

book. The detailed alphabetic index will also assist in this respect.

The literature has not been quoted in its entirety as this would increase the size of the book beyond practical means. The references given should provide the necessary evidence for some of the statements and give the reader access to the original work and to more extensive treatises on the subject. A list of books used or recommended will be found at the end, as well as a short addendum which deals with some of the work published while the book was at press. As these items have been incorporated in the alphabetical index the reader will have no difficulty in finding them.

A major difficulty in endocrinology is its nomenclature. There is still no agreement as to the use of the terms 'tropic' or 'trophic' in reference to the pituitary hormones. More pronounced differences exist in the use of the terms which refer to other hormones and to states of overaction or deficiency of certain glands. For instance, adrenal cortical overaction is varyingly referred to as hyper(adreno)corticalism, hyper(adreno)corticidism, hyper(adreno)-corticism, etc. In each instance, one term has been kept throughout this book, but this does not mean that the chosen terms are to be regarded as the best available.

The author wishes to thank all those whose interest and help have made it possible for him to write the book and who have allowed him to use their cases and to reproduce their illustrations. Dr M. Seckbach has read through some of the older literature. Special thanks are due to Dr H. W. Balme, who read the manuscript with the greatest care and made valuable suggestions. Thanks are also due to the publishers for their consideration in dealing with many problems which arose while the book was at the press. A final word of thanks must be expressed to my family and especially to my wife for her unfailing encouragement and practical help.

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1950

H. UCKO

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