



# *Laboratory medicine— hematology*

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**SECOND EDITION**

*320 Illustrations and  
26 Plates, Including 10 in Color*

*St. Louis*

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## *Preface to second edition*

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After making several futile attempts to write a preface to this, the second edition, I began to wonder why the undertaking should be so difficult. It seemed reasonable to find oneself less inspired at the end of more than a year of constant application to the task of revision—a ready-made excuse, yet insufficient to explain why writing should have ceased to be enjoyable.

Then I discovered, with relief, that what was unpleasing was the writing of a preface along the stereotyped pattern to be found in most texts that survive the first edition. Data gathered in the course of arriving at this conclusion may, one day, see the light as an essay "On Prefaces." Briefly, most first prefaces are cautious, subdued, even half apologetic, as is fitting when showing off to one's friends a new baby who could turn out to be an idiot. Later issue, however, is another story. The first born did indeed turn out not too badly. Could the second fail to be better? Hence, some restrained self-satisfaction is characteristic. The restraint, it is true, is usually sufficiently obvious that all can appreciate not only the author's feeling of pride but also the masterfulness with which it is kept within decent bounds.

This fine art, easily mastered by imitation, could make preface writing simple, for the pattern is easily followed and the phraseology ready-made. However, there is really little enjoyment in the repetition of such

conventions, and this I discovered to be the nature of the dissatisfaction referred to previously. A proper preface, like one of Shaw's, would be fun to write. Since I am constrained from writing a Shavian piece by limitations of time, space, and skill, there remains only to list the changes to be found in this edition.

Although the text as a whole has been carefully re-edited, my chief concern was to include new material and bring the standard sections up to date. Much new information on basic aspects of hemopoiesis and cell survival has been added to Chapters 1, 5, and 9. To Chapter 2 has been added a section on the human chromosomes, sex chromatin, and sexual dimorphism of leukocytes; also some new material on electron microscopy. Included in Chapter 5 are new sections on abnormal hemoglobins, hemoglobin metabolism, jaundice, and haptoglobins. New knowledge on biochemical lesions of erythrocytes that have a decreased life span will be found in Chapters 5 and 9. Chapter 11 has been expanded to include more complete discussion of the myeloproliferative disorders and the leukemias and lymphomas. Chapter 12, dealing with the hemorrhagic disorders, contains much new information. A few new methods have been added to the appendix, and the index has been completely redone and expanded. Finally, it is hoped that the new color plates, the black

and white drawings of blood cells, and the new illustrations will be found more pleasing and instructive.

My sincere appreciation is due, once again, to Sue Newbrey for her skill and dedication in the typing and retyping of the manuscript. Special thanks are due Jessie Kent for her generous and devoted assistance in assembling and proofreading the

manuscript. Many others of my technical and research staff, particularly Annie Ruth Winningham, Adele Mason, Marge Turek, and Faye Winstead, have given freely of their personal time in the revision of the bibliography and methodology sections. Last, but not least, warm thanks to my wife, Marjorie, whose editorial skill has done much to smooth the rough spots.

*John B. Miale*

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