PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF antibiotic therapy

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Antibiotic therapy

by

HENRY WELCH

In collaboration with

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my dear *amigos*
Félix and Josefina Martí-Ibáñez,
con la esperanza de que nuestras relaciones
sean aun más fraternales en el futuro.

Henry Welch

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Foreword

THREE years have elapsed since the publication of *Antibiotic Therapy* by Welch and Lewis. Although the discovery of antibiotics is increasing at a rapid rate, the clinically useful members of this group number about one dozen. The newer antibiotics overlap somewhat the efficacy of the older drugs and, therefore, the inroads against disease have not been in proportion to the number of new drugs made available. Accordingly, each new antibiotic meets from the scientific world somewhat less enthusiasm than its predecessor. The time has come to consolidate the available knowledge concerning antibiotics and their use in disease.

What started out to be a revision of *Antibiotic Therapy* developed into a completely new book—*Principles and Practice of Antibiotic Therapy*—which not only brings the previously published work up to date, but broadens it to cover the field more completely.

Doctor Welch, as Director of the Division of Antibiotics of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, has been instrumental in the progress of antibiotics since their introduction into this country. He has continued to provide, in this new book, the latest and best of the basic historical, chemical, and pharmacologic information concerning each of the antibiotics useful in clinical practice. The discussion of the broad spectrum antibiotics has been consolidated and the newest addition to this group (tetracycline) extensively described. New sections have been added on erythromycin, carbomycin, and fumagillin.

To help him cover the wide field of clinical usage of these drugs, he has invited this country's outstanding leaders in the field of antibiotic therapy to revise and expand certain of the chapters.

The information in this edition is so current that I do not hesitate to make the prediction that this will be the only modern medical textbook which is not out of date as it comes off the press. I can think of no more useful asset to a physician, medical student, or anyone interested in antibiotics, than *Principles and Practice of Antibiotic Therapy.*

LAWRENCE E. PUTNAM, M.D.

Washington, D.C.
April 30, 1954

Preface

ALTHOUGH there has been some "leveling off" in the pace there is still considerable activity in the field of antibiotics. It was to be expected that the rapidly changing picture of the 1940's would gradually assume a more orderly course. Yet new antibiotics are continually being isolated and the latest and most important of these, tetracycline, appears to have considerable clinical value. This drug, among others that have been made available (erythromycin, carbomycin, and fumagillin) since 1951, is discussed in detail in the present volume. The author, with C. N. Lewis, M.D., had published *Antibiotic Therapy* in 1951. This was reprinted in 1953. The present book has been enlarged and expanded to include the new developments in the antibiotic field, as well as a group of chapters by 16 international authorities on chemotherapy. I am deeply indebted to these associate authors, each of whom has written from a wealth of practical experience and is well qualified to enunciate the principles and proper use of these important drugs.

The first half of the book is concerned with the discovery, development, antimicrobial spectra, toxicity, absorption, and excretion of all of the useful antibiotic drugs. The second half of the book is devoted to the clinical uses of the antibiotics with recommended dosage regimens. The dosage forms now available are described and to each chapter is appended a reasonably extensive bibliography. The clinical section of the text covers the use of antibiotics by diseases and, in addition, chapters are devoted to three specialties: Antibiotics in Ophthalmology, Antibiotics in Pediatrics, and Antibiotics in Dentistry.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the comments and constructive criticisms of Dr. W. A. Randall and Dr. L. E. Putnam who were of great assistance in editing and proofreading the finished text. I am further indebted to my wife who cheerfully spent many hours typing and proofreading the first half of this volume, and to my daughter Laura for the dust cover design.

H. W.

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