

Pathologic Physiology:

MECHANISMS OF DISEASE

EDITED BY

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ILLUSTRATED

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Preface

THIS VOLUME, a collaborative effort by 25 authors, approaches problems of disease in the field of Internal Medicine from the standpoint of disturbed physiology. Unlike the usual text, which is devoted to discussions of etiology, pathology, symptoms and treatment, this work analyzes symptoms and signs and the mechanisms of their development. The monograph is not intended to take the place of standard texts on physiology or textbooks of medicine. It does not aim at the completeness of either, but does try to bridge the gap between them by presenting a clinical picture of disease seen as physiologic dysfunction. An attempt is made to promote understanding of how and why symptoms appear, so that the student or physician may have a reasonable explanation for the findings he elicits. Neurologic problems are considered only as they are related to the various disease groups. The same is true of metabolic disturbances and disorders of acid-base balance.

The Editor thanks the contributors for their ready cooperation in covering certain aspects of disease in which presentation of material is at times most difficult. He thanks the Saunders Company for their help and guidance, and also Miss Brent S. Robertson for her long hours of hard work and patience in reading and checking manuscripts.

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