

INTERNAL MEDICINE IN
DENTAL PRACTICE

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PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION

HEREWITH the authors present the Sixth Edition of Internal Medicine in Dental Practice. Long ago in the youth of this volume we sought to provide the dentist and dental student an image of Internal Medicine. At the advent of the First Edition we implied that "a speaking knowledge of Internal Medicine was contained therein." Since that day many years ago the rivers of Internal Medicine and Dentistry have continued their relentless rush to the sea. This is in keeping with all other great divisions of science and is what we have come to expect. More important than this has become the desirability of adequate communications between these two great forces and their tributaries; in other words, the growing interdependence of the Internist and the Specialist in Oral Medicine.

Many dentists today find themselves in governmental service or on the staff of general hospitals and teaching institutions, and as such are consulted daily concerning patients that come from Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and the various medical and surgical specialties. In the past a certain amount of medical knowledge might have been a decorative and, on occasions, useful accessory for the dentist. Today, however, a "speaking knowledge of Internal Medicine" is not only necessary, it is mandatory if the dentist is to practice his art with the satisfaction and peace of mind that is his due.

In practice the dentist may possess at least two advantages not shared by his physician colleagues; he may encounter disease, either oral or extraoral, in its earliest stage and, second, through his periodic examinations he may detect symptoms and physical signs that are instrumental in leading eventually to correct diagnosis and management. Thus, the patient may be directed into proper channels because of the presence of some of the following features: cyanosis, dyspnea, chest pain, and cough, to mention but a few.

Many areas of the book have been rewritten. Discussion of some items of particular concern to the dentist are included such as cardiac arrest and its management, certain aspects of anesthesiology, arteriosclerosis, coronary heart disease and its recognition and management, subacute bacterial endocarditis together with contemporary aspects of its diagnosis and management, congenital heart disease and its diagnosis and management, anticoagulant therapy and its relationship to coronary disease and to oral surgery, and pulmonary emphysema and respiratory reserve.

We have endeavored to stress those infections that most probably

might occur in a dentist's practice. We have tried to present the use of antibiotics reasonably, but pointing out at the same time, the possible untoward effects of long-continued use of these potent agents.

Steroids continue to occupy a prominent place in medical management. We have attempted to reflect this but, at the same time, emphasize the undesirable sequelae of this group of drugs when continued for long periods of time.

The box summary presentation of certain material has been retained. At the end of each part we have included a short bibliography which we hope will facilitate further study.

Malignancy continues to demand an increasingly larger fraction of the time and attention of the physician and dentist. We have tried to emphasize this in the discussion of areas where malignancy is most frequently encountered. Here, again, the dentist may be of paramount service through his early suspicion of malignancy, either primary or metastatic.

Many patients encountered in the dentist's practice present signs and symptoms of involvement of the central nervous system. We fully realize that this in itself involves a very large area of medical discussion. However, we have continued to incorporate a section on neurology which we hope will be of some use in the interpretation and evaluation of neurological symptoms.

Although psychiatry occupies a tremendously important place in the practice of the internist and the dentist, we feel that this subject is too large and complicated to be included in this volume.

Modern medical diagnosis and therapeutic procedures are, at times, extremely complicated and on certain occasions not without their untoward effects. We have tried to emphasize this in the proper areas.

An appendix is included to assist the dentist in the interpretation of our ever increasing results of laboratory study.

Again we wish to express to Dr. Thomas G. Dineen our thanks for his assistance in proof reading, to Dr. Donald C. Geist for his surgical suggestions, and to Dr. Bernard Simon for his assistance in the discussion of anesthesia. Finally; our sincerest thanks are due to Mrs. Gertrude R. Trainor for her ever-efficient, cheerful help in the preparation of this Sixth Edition.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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