

Textbook of Dermatology

EDITED BY

ARTHUR ROOK

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VOLUME ONE

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IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME ONE

THIRD EDITION



BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

OXFORD LONDON EDINBURGH MELBOURNE

© 1968, 1972, 1979 Blackwell Scientific Publications
Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OEL
8 John Street, London, WCIN 2ES
9 Forrest Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2QH
214 Berkeley Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia

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First published 1968
Reprinted 1969
Second edition 1972
Reprinted 1975
Third edition 1979

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Textbook of dermatology.—3rd ed.

- I. Dermatology
 - I. Rook, Arthur
 - II. Wilkinson, Darrel Sheldon
 - III. Ebling, Francis John Govier
- 616.5 RL71

ISBN 0-632-00465-7

Distributed in U.S.A. by
Blackwell Mosby Book Distributors
11830 Westline Industrial Drive
St Louis, Missouri 63141,
in Canada by
Blackwell Mosby Book Distributors
86 Northline Road, Toronto
Ontario, M4B 3E5,
and in Australia by
Blackwell Scientific Book Distributors
214 Berkeley Street, Carlton
Victoria 3053

Printed and bound in Great Britain by
SPOTTISWOODE BALLANTYNE LTD, COLCHESTER AND LONDON

Preface to First Edition

No comprehensive reference book on dermatology has been published in the English language for ten years and none in England for over a quarter of a century. The recent literature of dermatology is rich in shorter texts and in specialist monographs but the English-speaking dermatologist has long felt the need for a substantial text for regular reference and as a guide to the immense monographic and periodical literature. The editors have therefore planned the present volume primarily for the dermatologist in practice or in training, but have also considered the requirements of the specialist in other fields of medicine and of the many research workers interested in the skin in relation to toxicology or cosmetic science.

An attempt has been made throughout the book to integrate our growing knowledge of the biology of skin and of fundamental pathological processes with practical clinical problems. Often the gap is still very wide but the trends of basic research at least indicate how it may eventually be bridged. In a clinical textbook the space devoted to the basic sciences must necessarily be restricted but a special effort has been made to ensure that the short accounts which open many chapters are easily understood by the physician whose interests and experience are exclusively clinical.

For the benefit of the student we have encouraged our contributors to make each chapter readable as an independent entity, and have accepted that this must involve the repetition of some material.

The classification employed is conventional and pragmatic. Until our knowledge of the mechanisms of disease is more profound no truly scientific classification is possible. In so many clinical syndromes multiple aetiological factors are implicated. To emphasize one at the expense of others is often misleading. Most diseases are to some extent influenced by genetic factors and a large proportion of common skin reactions are modified by the emotional state of the patient. Our knowledge is in no way advanced by classifying hundreds of diseases as *genodermatoses* and dozens as *psychosomatic*.

The true prevalence of a disease may throw light on its aetiology but reported incidence figures are often unreliable and incorrectly interpreted. The scientific approach to the evaluation of racial and environmental factors has therefore been considered in some detail.

The effectiveness of any physician in practice must ultimately depend on his ability to make an accurate clinical diagnosis. Clinical descriptions are detailed and differential diagnosis is fully discussed. Histopathology is here considered mainly as an aid to diagnosis but references to fuller accounts are provided.

The approach to treatment is critical but practical. Many empirical measures are of proven value and should not be abandoned merely because their efficacy cannot yet be scientifically explained. However, many familiar remedies old and new have been omitted either because properly controlled clinical trials have shown them to be of no value or because they have been supplanted by more effective and safer preparations.

There are over nine hundred photographs but no attempt has been made to provide an illustration of every disease. To have done so would have increased the bulk and price of the book without increasing proportionately its practical value. The conditions selected for illustration are those in which a photograph significantly enhances the verbal description. There are a few conditions we wished to illustrate, but of which we could not obtain unpublished photographs of satisfactory quality.

The lists of references have been selected to provide a guide to the literature. Important articles now of largely historical interest have usually been omitted, except where a knowledge of the history of a disease simplifies the understanding of present concepts and terminology. Books and articles provided with substantial bibliography are marked with an asterisk.

Many of the chapters have been read and criticized by several members of the team and by other colleagues. Professor Wilson Jones, Dr. R.S. Wells

and Dr. W.E.Parish have given valuable assistance with histopathological, genetic and immunological problems respectively. Many advisers, whose services are acknowledged in the following pages, have helped us with individual chapters. Any errors which have not been eliminated are, however, the responsibility of the editors and authors.

The editors hope that this book will prove of value to all those who are interested in the skin either as physicians or as research workers. They will welcome readers' criticisms and suggestions which may help them to make the second edition the book they hope to produce.

Preface to Third Edition

The aim of the editors in this edition, as in its two predecessors, has been to provide a textbook which is soundly based in science, but which is nevertheless essentially a practical work of reference for the serious student of dermatology, whose main responsibility is the clinical care of patients. To incorporate the new knowledge of the skin and its diseases, published in the seven years since the second edition went to press has been a formidable task. Merely to add to the existing text the more important new facts, supported by the appropriate additions to the lists of references, would have greatly lengthened the book, without adding proportionately to its value. Much has therefore been rewritten or extensively revised. Of some 18,000 references cited, over a quarter are drawn from the literature of the past seven years.

We are happy to welcome new members to our team of contributors. Some have chosen entirely to rewrite the chapters they have taken over, others have made use of part of the text of the second edition. Dr. Kerdel-Vegas was prevented by other commitments from revising his contributions, but Dr. Roger Harman, who has undertaken their revision, found that only minor changes were required and we have therefore retained Dr. Kerdel-Vegas' name among the contributors.

We are still employing a practical and pragmatic classification of diseases. There have been few changes in the past seven years, but some disorders have been transferred to different chapters, either because advances in knowledge suggest that such a

change is desirable, or because logic demands it, e.g. progeria is more appropriately considered with the other ageing syndromes than with the genodermatoses, and pyoderma gangrenosum is classified with vasculitis.

This book is intended to provide the essential information needed by the dermatologist in training or in practice, while keeping its size within reasonable proportions. While retaining the essential histopathological details necessary to achieve this end, we have worked in close collaboration with the authors of a comprehensive histological volume which, we hope, will complement this work.

We have continued to abbreviate the references despite some criticisms. Bearing in mind the cost of the art paper which is so essential for the effective reproduction of illustrations, we feel that the consequent saving of space is justified.

The first two editions of this book stimulated some hundreds of readers in many countries to write to editors or contributors, drawing our attention to omissions or errors and suggesting improvements. We are very grateful for their advice. We have not been able to adopt every suggestion for the addition of rare diseases, but we have endeavoured to include every named disease entity founded on more than a few case reports. We shall continue to welcome further criticisms and suggestions.

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Acknowledgements

The revision of this textbook would have been impossible without the willing cooperation of a great many colleagues. Several chapters have been submitted to the criticism of various members of our team, and this mutual assistance has been greatly appreciated. Some contributors have sought the advice of other authorities on technical or specialized aspects of their chapters. We should like to express our gratitude to all those who have helped in this way.

Dr. Eric Waddington provided for our first edition an account of the clinical features of variola, based on his large personal experience; it has required little revision. Dr. Desmond Burrows and Dr. John Bridges gave advice on Letterer-Siwe disease and Dr. Helen Mawhinney on the Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome. Dr. Rodney Dawber gave advice on cryosurgical techniques, Dr. Margaret Spittle on radiotherapy and Dr. Graham Rook on immunological aspects of tuberculosis. Mrs S. Lomas, Staff Pharmacist, Wycombe General Hospital, has given invaluable help with the Formulary.

Dr. J.N.S. Mitchell, Dr. J.G. Reid and Dr. J.D. Wilkinson have given considerable help in many ways.

The source of almost every photograph or diagram is acknowledged in the legend which accompanies it. We are grateful to the publishers, editors and authors who have given us permission to reproduce those few illustrations which are not original.

A large proportion of the photographs are from the collections of Addenbrooke's Hospital, the hospitals of the Aylesbury and High Wycombe Group and St John's Hospital. We are very grateful to all those consultants who have allowed us to use photographs of their patients and apologize if we have inadvertently omitted any individual acknow-

ledgment. The late Professor J.T. Ingram, Professor F.F. Hellier and Dr. S.T. Anning have kindly permitted photographs of their patients to be included in Chapters 35 and 36. The Addenbrooke's photographs are the work of our art editor, Mr. Leonard Beard, or of his predecessor, Mr. Vince. Mr. D.G. Standen provided most of the photographs from Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and Mr. Bernard Clark those from Wycombe General Hospital. The St John's photographs are the work of Mr. R.B. Phillips, Director of the Department of Medical Illustration and Lecturer in Medical Illustration at St John's Hospital, or of his predecessor, Mr. R.J. Lunn. Mr. A.L. Pegg and Mr. W. Blackledge are responsible respectively for the clinical photographs and photomicrographs in Chapter 36. The Department of Medical Illustration of the Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, provided most of the photographs in Chapters 40 and 64. We are grateful to them all for their cooperation and technical skill. Messrs Glaxo have kindly covered the cost of Figure 24.4.

Our registrars have given us valuable assistance in many ways. We ask them to accept this collective acknowledgment of our appreciation.

Mr Freyhen, Librarian at St John's Hospital, has been most helpful. We are grateful, too, to our secretaries who have coped so efficiently with a heavy burden of additional work and to our colleagues who have shown so much understanding and tolerance of our absorption in and commitment to this book during the past two years.

In conclusion, on behalf of ourselves and the many contributors who are his former pupils we wish to place on record our indebtedness to the late Dr. G.B. Dowling and our gratitude for his teaching and example.

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CHAPTER 1

Dermatology

ARTHUR ROOK

Dermatology, the science of the skin, was one of the many specialities which evolved from general internal medicine during the course of the nineteenth century. Most diseases of the skin, as 'external diseases', had for many centuries fallen within the province of the surgeon or of the quack. Until the eighteenth century was well advanced, physicians, with few exceptions, were little concerned with the skin, apart from the exanthematic eruptions of acute fevers. However, during the last decades of that century many of the great physicians recorded their observations on diseases of the skin. The solid contributions of some, such as Heberden and Cullen, which have received too little attention from the historians of dermatology, laid the foundations on which the pioneer specialist dermatologists of the following century were able to build.

For a century concerned almost exclusively with the identification, clinical description, naming and empirical treatment of diseases of the skin, dermatology was slow to develop along scientific lines, largely because the congested conditions of work in most clinics imposed this time-saving superficial morphological approach. In the past 30 years the character of dermatology has changed and the work of the dermatologist now embraces every aspect of the biology of skin, normal and abnormal. His present task is to integrate the accumulated wisdom of his clinical forefathers with the explosively expanding knowledge of fundamental biological processes as they involve the skin.

The history of dermatology. This book contains few historical references. They have been omitted to allow the inclusion of material of more obvious practical application. The decision was made

regretfully. The system of named disease entities on which all Western medical practice is founded is an artificial concept. The frontiers of each disease are constantly shifting and a true understanding of their present significance is impossible without knowledge of their historical development. The literature on the history of dermatology is large, but much of it is anecdotal and unreliable and biased by national pride. It is hoped that this short list of references may give the reader some pleasure and encourage him to make scholarly contributions, international in range and outlook, to fill the many vast gaps in our knowledge.

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