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PHARMACOLOGY

The Nature, Action and Use of Drugs

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PREFACE

THIS IS A TEXTBOOK for the undergraduate medical student, who can devote but a fleeting moment in his career to prepare for the pharmacologic aspects of the practice that lies ahead. His need is for a special type of book with which to supplement his studies in the laboratory and lecture and conference rooms. I hope this book will be found to supply that need. It is written in three distinct portions. In Section I the attempt is made briefly to orient pharmacology among the other preclinical disciplines. In Section II there is presented a description of the broad background of the science and an exposition of the bases from which advances are made. Section III, which comprises the major part of the text, offers combined discussions of the actions and actual uses of drugs in an arrangement designed for direct serviceability from the pharmacotherapeutic standpoint. The bibliographies are not exhaustive but only meant to serve as guides for excursions into the literature.

The cordial reception accorded the first edition of the book has been very heart-warming of course, but I have been particularly pleased by the suggestions for improvement that have come from both friends and strangers in many parts of the world. The fact that there were so many of these indicates how far short of perfection the work has fallen, and I earnestly and gratefully hope that my critics will find evidence in this second edition of a determined effort to bring the book more nearly up to what they and I would want it to be.

HARRY BECKMAN

CONTENTS

Section I. A JUSTIFICATION OF PHARMACOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGISTS

<i>Chapter 1.</i>	A JUSTIFICATION OF PHARMACOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGISTS.....	3
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Section II. SOME PHARMACOLOGIC BACKGROUND

<i>Chapter 2.</i>	CLINICAL EFFECTS ACHIEVED WITH DRUGS.....	7
<i>Chapter 3.</i>	THE SOURCES OF DRUGS.....	9
<i>Chapter 4.</i>	THE NATURE OF DRUG ACTION.....	16
<i>Chapter 5.</i>	THE FATE OF DRUGS.....	26
	Absorption.....	27
	Distribution.....	30
	Metabolism.....	32
	Excretion.....	33
<i>Chapter 6.</i>	FACTORS AFFECTING DRUG ADMINISTRATION.....	35
	The Placebo.....	42
<i>Chapter 7.</i>	DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF NEW DRUGS.....	43
<i>Chapter 8.</i>	NAMING THE NEW DRUGS.....	47
<i>Chapter 9.</i>	LEGAL CONTROL OF NEW DRUGS.....	48
<i>Chapter 10.</i>	THE OFFICIAL AND SEMIOFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.....	50
<i>Chapter 11.</i>	THE PRESCRIPTION.....	51

<i>Chapter 12.</i>	DRUG ADDICTION	60
<i>Chapter 13.</i>	THE UNWANTED RESPONSES TO DRUGS	64
	Therapeutic Effect	64
	Secondary Effects	64
	Side-effects	64
	Idiosyncrasy	65
	Intolerance	65
	Hypersensitivity	65
	Drug Action and Predictability of Unwanted Reactions	74

Section III. THE ACTIONS AND USES OF DRUGS (Pharmacodynamics and Practical Applications)

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF MUSCLE

<i>Chapter 14.</i>	DRUGS THAT STIMULATE UTERINE MUSCLE (OXYTOCICS OR ECBOLICS)	79
	Oxytocin (Pitocin)	81
	Ergonovine (Ergotrate) and Methylergonovine (Methergine)	85
<i>Chapter 15.</i>	DRUGS THAT DEPRESS UTERINE MUSCLE	88
<i>Chapter 16.</i>	DRUGS THAT STIMULATE CARDIAC MUSCLE	89
	Digitalis Glycosides	90
<i>Chapter 17.</i>	DRUGS THAT DEPRESS CARDIAC MUSCLE	103
	Quinidine and Procainamide	103
	Potassium Salts	112
<i>Chapter 18.</i>	DRUGS THAT STIMULATE SKELETAL MUSCLE	114
<i>Chapter 19.</i>	DRUGS THAT DEPRESS SKELETAL MUSCLE	115
	Curariform Drugs	115
	Cinchona Derivatives	122
	Noncurariform Drugs	123
	Mephenesin (Tolserol, etc.)	123
	Carisoprodol (Soma, Rela)	124
	Zoxazolamine (Flexin)	125
	Chlorzoxazone (Paraflex)	126
	Methocarbamol (Robaxin)	126
	Styramate (Sinaxar)	126

CONTENTS	vii
<i>Chapter 20.</i> DRUGS THAT STIMULATE OR DEPRESS SMOOTH MUSCLE.....	129
<i>Chapter 21.</i> DRUGS THAT STIMULATE ALL TYPES OF MUSCLE.....	129
<i>Chapter 22.</i> DRUGS THAT DEPRESS ALL TYPES OF MUSCLE AND ALSO THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.....	130
Magnesium Sulfate.....	130

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF BLOOD

<i>Chapter 23.</i> DRUGS THAT EFFECT IMPROVEMENT IN ANEMIAS (HEMATINICS).....	134
I. Microcytic-Hypochromic Anemias.....	134
Iron Salts.....	134
II. Macrocytic-Hyperchromic Anemias.....	141
Cyanocobalamine (Vitamin B ₁₂) and Folic Acid.....	141
Liver Extract.....	147
III. Refractory Anemias.....	147
Cobaltous Chloride.....	147
Antibiotics.....	148
IV. Hemolytic Anemia.....	148
<i>Chapter 24.</i> DRUGS THAT LESSEN BLOOD COAGULABILITY (ANTICOAGULANTS).....	151
Sodium Citrate.....	152
Heparin.....	154
The Coumarins and the Indandione Derivatives.....	157
I. Bishydroxycoumarin (Dicumarol).....	157
II. Ethyl Biscoumacetate (Tromexan).....	161
III. Warfarin Sodium (Coumadin Sodium).....	162
IV. Acenocoumarin (Sintrom).....	163
V. Phenprocoumon (Liquamar).....	164
VI. Phenindione (Danilone, Hedulin, Indon, Eridione).....	164
VII. Diphenadione (Dipaxin).....	164
VIII. Anisindione (Miradon).....	165
<i>Chapter 25.</i> DRUGS THAT COMBAT HEMORRHAGE (HEMOSTATICS).....	167
Surgical Hemorrhage.....	167
Dental Hemorrhage.....	169
Hemorrhage During Pregnancy.....	169
Postpartum Hemorrhage and Retained Placenta.....	169
Pulmonary and Intracranial Hemorrhages.....	170
Hemorrhage in Peptic Ulcer.....	170
Hemorrhage from Esophageal Varices.....	170
Hypoprothrombinemia.....	170
Hemophilia and Purpura.....	170
Hemorrhage from Anticoagulant Drugs.....	170

<i>Chapter 26.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE PLASMA VOLUME EXPANDERS	171
	Dextran (Plavolex, Gentran, Expandex)	171
	Gelatin Solution, Special Intravenous (Plazmoid)	173
	Polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP-Macrose)	174

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF BLOOD VESSELS

<i>Chapter 27.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED PRINCIPALLY FOR VASODILATION IN CORONARY DISEASE	176
	The Nitrites	177
	Papaverine and Dioxyline Phosphate (Paveril)	180
	Theophylline	183

<i>Chapter 28.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED PRINCIPALLY FOR VASODILATION IN HYPERTENSION	189
	The Ganglionic Blocking Agents	190
	Tetraethylammonium Chloride (Etamon)	191
	Hexamethonium Chloride (Bistrium; Esomoid; Hexameton; Methium)	192
	Pentolinium Tartrate (Ansolysen)	194
	Chlorisondamine Chloride (Ecolid)	195
	Mecamylamine Hydrochloride (Inversine)	195
	Trimethaphan Camphorsulfonate (Arfonad)	196
	Trimethidinium Methosulfate (Ostensin)	196
	Hydralazine Hydrochloride (Apresoline)	197
	Veratrum Preparations	198
	Rauwolfia Preparations	200
	The Chlorothiazides	201
	Combined Use of the Preceding Drugs	202
	Sodium Thiocyanate	202
	Sodium Nitroprusside	203
	Bretylium Tosylate (Darenthin)	203

<i>Chapter 29.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED PRINCIPALLY FOR VASODILATION IN PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES	208
	Adrenergic Blocking Agents	208
	Phenoxybenzamine (Dibenzylamine)	209
	Tolazoline (Priscoline)	210
	Azapetine (Ilidar)	212
	Phentolamine (Regitine)	212
	Piperoxan (Benodaine)	213
	Peripheral Vasodilators That Are Not Adrenergic Blocking Agents	214

<i>Chapter 30.</i>	DRUGS THAT CONSTRICT BLOOD VESSELS	216
	Ergotamine and Dihydroergotamine	216

<i>Chapter 31.</i>	DRUGS THAT SCLEROSE BLOOD VESSELS	220
	Quinine and Urea Hydrochloride; Sodium Morrhuate; Sotradecol; Synasol	220

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

<i>Chapter 32.</i>	DRUGS THAT LESSEN PAIN THROUGH SYSTEMIC ACTION (ANALGESICS)	223
	I. Opiates and Substitutes Therefor	224
	Morphine	225
	Codeine	231
	Dihydrocodeinone (Hycodan; Dicodid)	232
	Dihydrocodeine Bitartrate (Parzone)	233
	Diacetylmorphine (Heroin)	233
	Dihydromorphinone (Dilaudid; Hymorphan)	233
	Meperidine (Isonipeaine; Dolantin; Demerol; Pethidine)	234
	Methadone (Dolophine; Adanon; Amidon)	234
	Levorphanol (Levo-Dromoran)	235
	Alphaprodine (Nisentil)	235
	Dextro Propoxyphene (Darvon)	236
	Anileridine (Leritine)	236
	Dextromethorphan (Romilar)	237
	Ethoheptazine (Zactane)	237
	Oxymorphan (Numorphan)	237
	Phenazocine (Prinadol)	237
	Opium	238
	Pantopon	238
	Narcotic Antagonists	238
	Nalorphine (Nalline) and Levallorphan (Lorfan)	238
	Amiphenazole (Daptazole)	240
	II. Coal-Tar Analgesics	242
	III. Aminopyrine (Pyramidon)	244
	IV. The Salicylates	245
	V. Colchicine	258
	VI. Phenylbutazone (Butazolidin)	259
<i>Chapter 33.</i>	DRUGS THAT LESSEN PAIN THROUGH TOPICAL ACTION (COUNTER-IRRITANTS)	262
<i>Chapter 34.</i>	DRUGS THAT QUIET AND PUT TO SLEEP (SEDATIVES AND HYPNOTICS) . .	263
	Diureide Barbiturates	264
	Chloral Hydrate	269
	Paraldehyde	270
	The Bromides	272
	Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol) and the Antagonists, Disulfiram (Antabuse), Animal Charcoal and Citrated Calcium Carbimide (Temposil)	273

Disulfiram (Antabuse)	277
Animal Charcoal	279
Citrated Calcium Carbimide (Temposil)	280
Monoureide Barbiturates	280
Newer Hypnotics	281
 <i>Chapter 35. DRUGS THAT AFFECT MOOD AND BEHAVIOR</i>	 285
A. Tranquilizers	285
I. Phenothiazine Derivatives	285
II. Rauwolfia Derivatives	296
III. Propanediol Derivatives	299
IV. Diphenylmethane Derivatives	301
Methaminodiazepoxide (Librium)	302
B. Psychomotor Stimulants	306
Piperidine Derivatives	307
Acetylcholine Precursors	308
Iminodibenzyl Derivatives	309
Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors	310
The Amphetamines	313
C. Psychotomimetics	315
 <i>Chapter 36. DRUGS THAT ANTAGONIZE THE ACTIONS OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DEPRESSANTS (ANALEPTICS)</i>	 318
 <i>Chapter 37. DRUGS THAT ARE ANTICONVULSANTS IN EPILEPSY</i>	 324
Barbituric Acid Derivatives	325
Hydantoin Derivatives	325
Oxazolidine Derivatives	326
Succinamides	326
Phenacetylurea	326
Minor Drugs	326
 <i>Chapter 38. DRUGS THAT ARE ANESTHETICS</i>	 332
Balanced Anesthesia	334
Inhalation Anesthetics	336
Diethyl Ether	339
Vinyl Ether (Vinethene)	342
Ethyl Chloride	343
Trichloroethylene (Trilene)	343
Chloroform	344
Halothane (Fluothane)	345
Nitrous Oxide, Ethylene, Cyclopropane (The Gaseous Anesthetics)	347
Intravenous Barbiturate Anesthetics	351
Intravenous Steroid Anesthetics	356
Rectal Anesthetics	358

Tribromoethanol	358
Thiopental (Pentothal)	359
Ether-Oil	360
The Site and Nature of General Anesthetic Action	360
A. Site	360
B. Nature	362
Local Anesthetics	363
Chemical Nature	364
List of the Principal Drugs	365
Topical Anesthesia	368
Infiltration and Regional (Blocking) Anesthesia	371
Spinal Anesthesia	372
Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion of Local Anesthetics	377
Side-Actions, Toxicity and Contraindications	378
Use of Procaine for Systemic Effects	380
Premedication in Anesthesia	383
 <i>Chapter 39. DRUGS THAT COMBAT THE SYMPTOMS IN PARKINSONISM</i>	 387
Belladonna Alkaloids	387
Synthetic Belladonna Substitutes	388
Antihistaminics	390
 <i>Chapter 40. DRUGS THAT COMBAT MOTION SICKNESS</i>	 391
Belladonna Alkaloids	391
Antihistamines	392
 THE PHARMACOLOGY OF THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM	
<i>Introduction</i>	394
<i>Chapter 41. DRUGS THAT ARE CHOLINERGIC (PARASYMPATHOMIMETIC) AGENTS</i>	397
Methacholine Chloride (Mecholyl Chloride)	397
Carbachol (Carcholin)	399
Bethanechol Chloride (Urecholine)	399
Pilocarpine	401
 <i>Chapter 42. DRUGS THAT ARE CHOLINESTERASE INHIBITING AGENTS</i>	 402
Physostigmine (Eserine) and Its Substitute, Neostigmine (Prostigmin)	403
Neostigmine Substitutes	406
The Alkyl Phosphates	406
Edrophonium Chloride (Tensilon)	408
 <i>Chapter 43. DRUGS THAT ARE CHOLINERGIC BLOCKING AGENTS</i>	 410
Belladonna Alkaloids	410
Atropine and Scopolamine	410
Substitutes for Atropine and Scopolamine	416

<i>Chapter 44.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE ADRENERGIC (SYMPATHOMIMETIC) AGENTS	423
	Epinephrine (Adrenalin)	423
	Levarterenol (Levophed)	430
	Ephedrine	434
	Amphetamine (Benzedrine) and Dextro-Amphetamine (Dexedrine)	435
	Isoproterenol (Isuprel; Aludrine; Norisodrine)	436
	Phenylephrine (Neo-Synephrine)	438
	Methoxyphenamine (Orthoxine)	439
	Nylidrin (Arlidin)	439
	Additional Drugs	440
<i>Chapter 45.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE ADRENERGIC BLOCKING AGENTS	446
<i>Chapter 46.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE GANGLIONIC BLOCKING AGENTS	446

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF THE PUPIL AND VISION

<i>Chapter 47.</i>	DRUGS THAT AFFECT PUPILLARY SIZE AND VISUAL ACCOMMODATION . .	447
	Mydriatics and Cycloplegics	447
	Miotics	450

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF THE KIDNEYS

<i>Chapter 48.</i>	DRUGS THAT INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF URINE (DIURETICS)	452
	Organomercurials	453
	Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors	457
	Thiazide Derivatives	460
	Aldosterone Antagonists	463
	Aminouracils	463
	Cation Exchange Resins	464
	Osmotics	464
	Acid Forming Salts	466
	Ammonium Chloride	466
	Theophylline Derivatives	467
	Bile Salts	467
<i>Chapter 49.</i>	DRUGS THAT PROMOTE RENAL URIC ACID TRANSPORT (URICOSURIC AGENTS)	470
	Probenecid (Benemid)	471
	Phenylbutazone (Butazolidin)	473

Sulfinpyrazone (Anturan)	473
Salicylates	474
Zoxazolamine (Flexin)	474

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF THE LIVER AND GALLBLADDER

<i>Chapter 50.</i> DRUGS THAT PROMOTE BILE PRODUCTION (CHOLERETICS)	476
<i>Chapter 51.</i> DRUGS THAT PROMOTE EMPTYING OF THE GALLBLADDER (CHOLAGOGUES)	478
<i>Chapter 52.</i> DRUGS THAT HAVE PROTECTIVE ACTION IN HEPATIC MALADIES	479
Choline and Methionine	479
<i>Chapter 53.</i> DRUGS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL IN HEPATIC COMA	480
Neomycin	480
Sodium Glutamate (Glutavene)	481
Arginine Hydrochloride (Argivine)	481

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

<i>Chapter 54.</i> DRUGS THAT COMBAT GASTRIC HYPERACIDITY (ANTACIDS)	482
<i>Chapter 55.</i> DRUGS THAT COMBAT GASTRIC HYPOACIDITY	486
<i>Chapter 56.</i> DRUGS THAT PRODUCE VOMITING (EMETICS)	487
<i>Chapter 57.</i> DRUGS THAT COMBAT VOMITING (ANTIEMETICS)	489
<i>Chapter 58.</i> DRUGS THAT PROMOTE BOWEL EVACUATION (CATHARTICS)	491
<i>Chapter 59.</i> DRUGS THAT PROMOTE REDISTRIBUTION OF INTESTINAL GAS (CARMINATIVES)	495

PHARMACOLOGY OF INFECTION AND INFESTATION

<i>Chapter 60.</i> DRUGS THAT COMBAT THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES THROUGH ANTIBIOTIC ACTION	497
Introduction	497
Principles of Therapeutic Use	505
Duration of Treatment	506
The Individual Drugs	506

I. Amphotericin B (Fungizone)	506
II. Bacitracin (Baciguent; Bacitracin)	507
III. Carbomycin (Magnamycin)	507
IV. Chloramphenicol (Chloromycetin)	508
V. Cycloserine (Seromycin)	509
VI. Erythromycin Propionate Lauryl Sulfate (Ilosone)	509
VII. Fumagillin (Fumidil)	510
VIII. Griseofulvin (Fulvicin, Grifulvin, Griseo-fulvin)	510
IX. Kanamycin (Kantrex)	510
X. Neomycin Sulfate (Mycifradin; Myciguent; Neomycin)	511
XI. Novobiocin (Cathomycin; Albamycin)	512
XII. Nystatin (Mycostatin)	512
XIII. Oleandomycin (Matromycin) and Triacetyloleandomycin (Cyclamycin; Tao)	513
XIV. Penicillin	513
XV. Polymyxin B (Aerosporin)	521
XVI. Ristocetin (Sprontin)	521
XVII. Streptomycin and Dihydrostreptomycin	522
XVIII. The Tetracyclines	523
XIX. Tyrothricin (Soluthricin)	525
XX. Vancomycin Hydrochloride (Vancocin)	525
XXI. Viomycin (Vinactane; Viocin)	526
Resistance to Antibiotics and the Development of "New" Infections	526
Use of Antibiotics in Combination	527

<i>Chapter 61.</i> DRUGS THAT COMBAT THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES THROUGH CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC ACTION	533
I. Amebicides	533
II. Sulfonamides	537
III. Antimalarials	543
IV. Arsenical and Bismuth Compounds	552
V. The Antimonials	556
VI. The Diamidines	559
VII. Nitrofurans Derivatives	560
VIII. Methenamine Mandelate (Mandelamine)	562
IX. Aminosalicyclic Acid (p-Aminosalicyclic Acid; PAS; Pamisyl; Para- Pas; Parasal)	563
X. Isoniazid (INH; Nydrazid; Rimifon; etc.)	565
XI. Sulfones	568
XII. Suramin Sodium	571

<i>Chapter 62.</i> DRUGS THAT DESTROY WORMS AND FLUKES (ANTHELMINTICS; VERMIFUGES)	572
Introduction	572
Piperazine Citrate (Antepar; Multifuge; Parazine; Pipizan)	573
Diethylcarbamizine (Hetrazan)	573
Hexylresorcinol	574
Tetrachloroethylene	575

Diathiazanine Iodide (Abminthic; Delvex).....	575
Methylrosaniline Chloride (Gentian Violet).....	576
Other Anthelmintics and Vermifuges.....	576

<i>Chapter 63.</i> DRUGS THAT DESTROY INFESTING PESTS (PESTICIDES).....	578
---	-----

<i>Chapter 64.</i> DRUGS THAT DESTROY PATHOGENIC ORGANISMS WHEN LOCALLY APPLIED (ANTISEPTICS; DISINFECTANTS; GERMICIDES; FUNGICIDES).....	580
Introduction.....	580
Preparation of Hands and the Site of Operation.....	581
Soft Tissue Infections.....	583
Bacterial, Fungal and Viral Infections of the Skin.....	585
Disinfection of Sputum, Excreta and Inanimate Objects.....	588

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF CONSTITUENT REPLACEMENT

<i>Chapter 65.</i> DRUGS THAT ARE ENZYMES.....	590
Hyaluronidase (Wydase; Alidase; Hyazyme; Infiltrase).....	590
Streptokinase-Streptodornase (Varidase).....	592
Trypsin (Tryptar) and Chymotrypsin (Chymar).....	593

<i>Chapter 66.</i> DRUGS THAT ARE HORMONES OR SYNTHETIC HORMONE SUBSTITUTES.....	596
Adrenal Glucocorticoids.....	596
Essential Chemical Characteristics.....	597
Available Compounds and Their Differential Characteristics.....	597
Clinical Uses.....	597
Adrenal Mineralocorticoids.....	609
Desoxycorticosterone Acetate (Cortate; Decortin; Decosterone; Doca Acetate; Percorten).....	609
Adrenal Cortical Extract (Eschatin; Lipo-Adrenal Cortex; Cortalex, etc.).....	611
Corticotropin, Purified (ACTH Purified; Depo-ACTH; Corticotropin- Gel; Purified Corticotropin).....	611
Thyroid Substance, Sodium Levothyroxine (Synthroid) and Sodium Liothyronine (Cytomel).....	616
Vasopressin (Pitressin), Oxytocin (Pitocin) and Posterior Pituitary (Pituitrin; Infundin).....	621
Female Sex Hormones, Derivatives and Substitutes.....	624
The Estrogens.....	624
The Progesterones.....	630
Chorionic Gonadotropin (Antuitrin-S; A.P.L.; Follutein; etc.).....	632
Male Sex Hormone and Substitutes.....	633

<i>Chapter 67.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE VITAMINS.....	639
	Vitamin A.....	639
	Vitamin B Complex.....	641
	Vitamin C* (Ascorbic Acid).....	646
	Vitamin D, Dihydrotachysterol, Parathyroid and the Calcium Salts.....	647
	Vitamin K.....	655
	Vitamin P (and Rutin).....	658
	Multiple Vitamins in Subclassic Deficiencies.....	659
	Multiple Vitamins in the Acutely Ill.....	660

<i>Chapter 68.</i>	DRUGS THAT EFFECT ELECTROLYTE REPLACEMENT.....	663
	Water and Electrolyte Replacement Solutions.....	663
	Choice of Solution in Specific Instances.....	664
	Amount of Fluid to Give.....	665

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF DRUGS IN A MISCELLANY OF SPECIFIC CATEGORIES

<i>Chapter 69.</i>	DRUGS THAT REDUCE FEVER (ANTIPYRETICS).....	667
<i>Chapter 70.</i>	DRUGS THAT INCREASE RESPIRATORY TRACT FLUID (EXPECTORANTS).....	668
<i>Chapter 71.</i>	DRUGS THAT COMBAT THE ACTIONS OF HISTAMINE (ANTIHISTAMINICS).....	671
<i>Chapter 72.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED TO TREAT CHEMICAL BURNS.....	684
<i>Chapter 73.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE ANTIDOTES FOR HEAVY METAL POISONING.....	685
	Dimercaprol (BAL).....	685
	Edathamil Calcium-Disodium (Calcium Disodium Versenate).....	687
<i>Chapter 74.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED EXTERNALLY IN TREATMENT OF IDIOPATHIC DERMATOSES.....	691
<i>Chapter 75.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED TO HARDEN TOOTH ENAMEL IN THE PROPHYLAXIS OF CARIES.....	695
<i>Chapter 76.</i>	DRUGS THAT ARE USED TO COMBAT SYMPTOMS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS.....	696

<i>CONTENTS</i>	xvii
<i>Chapter 77. DRUGS THAT DEPRESS THYROID ACTIVITY</i>	698
<i>Chapter 78. DRUGS THAT COMBAT CANCEROUS PROCESSES (ANTINEOPLASTICS)</i>	705
Introduction	705
Classification of Antineoplastics	706
Alkylating Agents	708
Mechlorethamine Hydrochloride (Mustargen)	708
Triethylene Melamine (TEM)	709
Thio-TEPA	710
Chlorambucil (Leukeran)	711
Busulfan (Myleran)	711
Other Alkylating Agents	712
Antimetabolites	712
Amethopterin (Methotrexate)	713
Mercaptopurine (Purinethol)	715
Hormones	715
Adrenocortical Steroids	715
Estrogens	716
Testosterone	717
Miscellaneous Agents	718
Urethan	718
Desacetylmethylcolchicine (Colcemid)	718
<i>Chapter 79. DRUGS THAT ARE USED IN THE THERAPY OF DIABETES MELLITUS</i>	721
Introduction	721
Insulin	723
Drugs That Are Used as Sweetening Agents	734
Synthetic Non-Insulin Compounds for Oral Use	734
I. Aryl Sulfonylureas	734
II. The Biguanides	736
<i>Chapter 80. DRUGS THAT ARE USED TO TREAT ATHEROSCLEROSIS</i>	741
<i>Chapter 81. DRUGS THAT ARE NONANESTHETIC THERAPEUTIC GASES</i>	743
Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide, Helium	743
<i>INDEX</i>	749