

Diseases of the Kidney

VOLUME I

Diseases of the Kidney

SECOND EDITION

Editors

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By 59 Authors

Volume I

Little, Brown and Company
Boston

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and Louis G. Welt

Second Edition

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Library of Congress catalog card No. 70-146340

ISBN 0-316-81910

04492-22C1-M011/71

Published in Great Britain
by Churchill/Livingstone, Edinburgh and London

Printed in the United States of America

Slipcase and binding design
by Vincent Ceci

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Preface to the Second Edition

In the preface to the first edition of *Diseases of the Kidney* (1963), reprinted in this edition, we commented on the impossibility of a single author's being able to embrace the entire area of renal disease, as a result of which a multiauthored text became obligatory. At that time it seemed entirely feasible to cover the consequences of renal failure and their management in a single chapter. The expansion of knowledge in the ensuing years has now made it necessary to subdivide this topic so that appropriate experts could discuss the general metabolic, hematopoietic, neurologic, and osseous consequences of renal insufficiency. The peculiarities of renal disease in children have made it advisable to add a separate chapter on pediatric nephrology for special consideration. We may well ask "Where will it all end?" and fervently hope that the development of unifying hypotheses in biology will bring order and simplification to the ever-increasing body of knowledge.

Other new chapters include those on atheroembolic renal disease, kidney transplantation, and the immunologic and genetic aspects of transplantation. Renal biopsy now deserves a separate chapter. One chapter has been eliminated; the use of an ileal conduit rather than a sigmoid bladder for urinary diversion has minimized the adverse effects often encountered with the latter procedure and rendered the topic one of historical rather than of current interest. We hope that future editions may see additional chapters eliminated for similar reasons.

With two exceptions, every chapter has been thoroughly revised, some by new authors. In the rapidly changing field of nephrology, only the areas involving the ultrastructure of the kidney and congenital malformations have remained relatively static. To the new

Preface to the First Edition

The need for a critical and comprehensive clinical text dealing with diseases of the kidney has been manifest for many years. The growth of knowledge in this area in recent decades has been stupendous, and excellent monographs on one or another topic within the field have been published, but no single volume to which the student and clinician could turn for complete coverage has been available.

That this volume is multiauthored hardly requires comment. The day of Francis Bacon, when one man could embrace all human knowledge, is long past. Even if one author could encompass all of renal disease, the Herculean nature of the task would require so many years that the first chapter would be outdated long before the last was complete.

The editors have been most fortunate in obtaining the cooperation of a distinguished group of authorities who have labored long and assiduously in the compilation of this volume. We have thanked them individually and privately for their contributions. Now we wish to spread our appreciation on the written record. This is their book, not ours. The excellence of their individual chapters has made our editorial task light. We are profoundly grateful to them, and we know that both students of renal disease and those charged with the care of patients will share our gratitude that this vast amount of learning is now available in a single, if weighty, volume.

Finally we wish to express our appreciation to Miss Margaret F. Mutch, of Little, Brown and Company, who has succeeded in converting a multi-authored text into a cohesive whole without sacrificing the individual style of the separate contributors.

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