

Pharmacotherapeutics of Oral Disease

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**PHARMACOTHERAPEUTICS
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Preface

In preparing this book, we intended to provide a source of information to fill a serious void in the training of undergraduate students of dentistry in the pharmacotherapeutics of oral disease; and, in addition, to provide an accurate and usable reference book for practitioners of dentistry and medicine.

Although brief reviews of various disease states are included, this book is not intended as a textbook on oral diagnosis. Rather, it is assumed that the reader already knows, is familiar with, or has access to information concerning the nature of the disease processes. Thus, our authors have been permitted to devote their contributions almost entirely to the *management* and *treatment* of oral diseases and associated systemic abnormalities.

In attempting to attain these objectives effectively, our authors have emphasized the specific therapeutic approach to each disease state rather than the study of the medications per se. In other words, instead of considering the efficacy of each drug in the management of disease, the objective has been to discuss each disease entity in terms of those drugs which may be useful in its management and control.

It is to be noted that many of the diseases discussed in this book might at first glance appear to be of only cursory interest to the dentist; but these diseases, in our opinion, do have important implications in regard to the patient's oral or systemic health, and thus serve to emphasize systemic-oral interrelationships.

Parts I and II deal with broad generalizations concerning pharmacology and the application of this field to the therapy of oral disease. Included in these sections are relatively brief introductory expositions of pharmacologic principles (Part I) and the pharmacotherapeutics of drug groups and individual drug substances (Part II) of particular importance in the treatment of oral lesions.

Part III is concerned almost entirely with the treatment of specific oral and dental diseases, as well as a number of systemic diseases of particular import to practitioners of dentistry. Each contribution has been written by a person experienced in

the specific area about which he was selected to write. In presenting the various therapeutic approaches, each author was advised to place emphasis on the more recent and acceptable treatment methods and to include as many implications of current investigations as was considered advisable. Furthermore, to ensure that as much pertinent reference information as possible might be conveniently and freely presented, our contributors were permitted to include references in their bibliographies which are not specifically alluded to in the body of the text.

Undoubtedly, many of the treatments suggested by our authors will provoke valid divergences of opinion. In fact, a number of different opinions were expressed by the various authors themselves. In weighing these opinions, the reader should remember that each therapeutic approach has been selected by an individual whom the editors believe to be highly qualified. In any event, by stimulating thought, discussion, and experiment, such differences in opinion should have a positive value.

It should be noted that we, rather than the individual contributors, are responsible for the selected suggested reading portions of the bibliographies listed in the text.

Finally, the reader's attention is called to the Epitome section, which appears on tinted paper in the middle of the book. It is our belief that this section will prove to be an unusually important and unique supplement to the text, since it offers:

1. A unification of therapeutic information which is basically applicable to many areas of the text
2. A means of avoiding the reading of repetitious details
3. A simple, practical, and easily located reference for obtaining the more common and necessary information about certain drugs and drug groups and their applications to oral disease.

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George A. Hyman

Acknowledgments

In assuming the editorship of this text, it was readily admitted that no single individual can any longer be expected to prepare an "authoritative" textbook covering one, let alone two, entire disciplines—oral medicine and pharmacotherapeutics. Thus, it was evident from the outset that if this book were to fulfill the objective of being truly authoritative, the editors would have to be dependent upon specialists or experts in each of a very considerable number of specific fields. The 131 contributors, all of whom are identified and acknowledged in the list of contributors, were carefully selected so that we could obtain scholarly manuscripts in these many and varied areas. To our contributors, we express our deep gratitude for the diligent manner in which they undertook and completed their assigned tasks; and also for their constant cooperation throughout the enterprise. It is also fitting at this time that we report the untimely passing of one of our contributors, Dr. Irvin Kerlan, and express our deepest regrets.

We are indebted to numerous individuals for their advice and aid in regard to the accuracy of textual material, particularly that contained in the manuscripts of contributors in peripheral and allied fields. These efforts are acknowledged with sincere appreciation. Many of our colleagues at the School of Dental and Oral Surgery and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University were more than generous with their help and criticism.

The contributions of Henry O. Heinemann, M.D., and John L. Buchanan, M.D., both of whom also wrote chapters of the book, require special comment. Our warmest thanks are extended to them for their inestimable aid in reading and criticizing each manuscript for its factual information. Not only was this task performed upon initial receipt of the manuscript, but it was also repeated in the galley and page proof stages of the book. They, together with Dr. John H. Middendorf, Associate Professor of English, Columbia University, helped to make many portions of the text say what the authors had intended.

The many and difficult tasks which are inherent in the compilation and preparation of a book of this type are such as to require continued enthusiasm, drive, and perhaps, also, inspiration. An ever ready and vital source of the latter was constantly derived from persons who may not have been directly associated with the formidable tasks involved. It is with these thoughts in mind that the authors express their deep appreciation to their wives and families for their encouragement, forbearance, sacrifices, and sustenance. To our wives, Helene Kutscher, Irene Zegarelli, and Barbara Hyman, we reverently dedicate this book.

Additional words of appreciation are offered to Helene Kutscher, without whose important and unheralded contributions this text would not have been completed. Her constant and dedicated efforts throughout the "gestational period" of the text, regardless of time, household tasks, and vacations, were responsible for keeping the overall manuscript on its appointed course.

We are also grateful to the many secretaries who have worked diligently with us, and, especially, do we extend our appreciation to Mrs. Sue Overton and Mrs. Eleanor Boylan. To the reference librarians of the College of Physicians and Surgeons we owe a distinct debt of gratitude for their constant and unfailing assistance.

Our continuously pleasant and friendly relationship with our publishers added immeasurably to the satisfactions which have been derived from preparing this book. We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Judy Lantz for her contributions in helping to overcome the formidable task of preparing the index.

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A. H. K., E. V. Z., G. A. H.

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