BOOK REVIEW


This textbook of surgery now has gone through eight editions and six reprints since it was first published in 1932. In this present edition several chapters have been rewritten and a section on peptic ulcer added. There also has been added a considerable number of new illustrations.

In many respects this book well deserves the popularity it has enjoyed. Obviously written for the medical student and the general practitioner, it serves its purpose well. The authors have a simple carefully constructed but easy style which makes for enjoyable reading. They have concentrated an unusual amount of information into one volume and illustrated it accurately. The book is at its best in the objective description of disease and rarely does one encounter a situation in which an important physical sign is omitted. One also is impressed by the sense of balance maintained throughout.

The brevity of the considerations, which acts so well to enhance this volume, also serves at times as a detriment. There is a resultant rigidity frequently noted that could easily lead to false impressions by an indiscriminate reader. An example is seen on page 113 under the discussion of “Lymphangiectasis.” “The condition occasionally affects the subcutaneous lymphatics of a limb (Milroy’s disease) and amputation may then be required.” Again, on page 782 under the discussion of adenoma of the bronchus, there is the statement that “Bronchoscopic examination reveals a tumor which can usually be extirpated without difficulty.” There are many thoracic surgeons who certainly would take issue with such a statement. Such use of positive statements in situations where a difference of opinion exists could better be taken care of were modalities given more consideration.

The volume also suffers from a paucity of biochemical and physiologic data relating to surgical disease, and it perhaps is here that one notes its chief difference from current American texts. The authors are at their best in describing acute abdominal catastrophies and lesions of the bones and joints.

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