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# The Concise Encyclopedia of Modern Surgery

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## Abstract

In the brief scope of 308 pages the author presents a concise view of the entire field of surgery in all its aspects: the specialties and their scope, hospitalization, pathology, preoperative and post-operative care, anatomy and operations of every organ of the body, complications, convalescence, and rehabilitation. Here are to be found the basic facts that any person related to the surgical team might need to know, whether nurse, physical therapist, medical librarian, secretary, patient, his family, or even the student who thinks he would like to be a surgeon some day and wants a reliable and easy-to-read outline of the field.

In addition to helping the technician, the nurse, and the student to orient themselves, this book should help those who come into direct contact with the layman to answer his questions regarding a stay in the hospital and the nature and purpose of tests, operations, and treatment. The

**Radiation: Use and Control in Industrial Application.** By Charles Wesley Shilling, M.D., Sc.D., Deputy Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, United States Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C. Modern monographs in industrial medicine 5. Editor in chief: Anthony J. Lanza, M.D. Consulting editor: Richard H. Orr, M.D. Cloth. \$6.75. Pp. 233, with 29 illustrations. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Ave. S., New York 16; 15/16 Queen St., Mayfair, London, W. 1, England, 1960.

This book attempts to explain the use of radiation in industry and medicine. It is aimed at the practicing physician and is written for him in simple and non-technical language. It deals only with radioactive radiation, not with the rest of the radiation spectrum of light, heat, and radio waves.

The theoretical background is presented first, in non-mathematical form. The uses of radiation in medicine and industry are then covered. Chapters deal with the effects of various doses of radiation—their symptoms and treatment. Low doses cause little damage; high doses cause nausea, burns and death. Case histories are given for each type. In many instances, no cure can be effected; only supportive treatment is possible.

The problem of genetic damage by any radiation exposure is discussed at length. The author concludes that, with the maximum allowable dosages now in effect, the number of mutations caused by uses of radiation approximates the number due in the past to the "normal" background radiation. Interesting chapters cover decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes. The author is optimistic about both problems, and believes there is little damage to the world's population if the present controls and disposal policies are continued.

This work cannot be used easily as a textbook. The index is incomplete; a bibliography is given, but no references are cited in the text. Sources are not given for most of the data, charts, diagrams, and case histories used. As an introductory guide for the practicing physician, this book may be of some use, but it cannot be used as a complete guide to the field.

DOROTHY E. KREMEN

**The Concise Encyclopedia of Modern Surgery.** By James Hale Rutledge, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. Cloth. \$8. Pp. 308, with 140 illustrations by author. Chilton Company, Book Division, 56th and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia 39; Ambassador Books, Ltd., 1149 King St., W., Toronto 3, Canada, 1960.

In the brief scope of 308 pages the author presents a concise view of the entire field of surgery in all its aspects: the specialties and their scope, hospitalization, pathology, preoperative and post-operative care, anatomy and operations of every organ of the body, complications, convalescence, and rehabilitation. Here are to be found the basic

ily, or even the student who thinks he would like to be a surgeon some day and wants a reliable and easy-to-read outline of the field.

In addition to helping the technician, the nurse, and the student to orient themselves, this book should help those who come into direct contact with the layman to answer his questions regarding a stay in the hospital and the nature and purpose of tests, operations, and treatment. The first few chapters are especially designed to help the student and nurse to regain that understanding of the lay point of view which they may have lost in training.

There is an extensive index and a glossary of medical and surgical combining forms. The black-and-white drawings which illustrate this book and the language in which it is written are alike simple and to the point. This is a fine introductory textbook and reference work.

HELEN MARSHALL

**Current Surgical Management II: A Book of Alternative Viewpoints on Controversial Surgical Problems.** Editors: John H. Mulholland, M.D., editor-in-chief, Edwin H. Ellison, M.D., and Stanley R. Friesen, M.D. With contributions by 50 authorities. Cloth. \$8. Pp. 348, with illustrations. W. B. Saunders Company, 218 W. Washington Sq., Philadelphia 5; 7 Grape St., Shaftesbury Ave., London, W. C. 2, England, 1960.

The commonest controversial problems of surgery are discussed in the text by 50 contributors from all over the country, who work in private, university, and Veterans Administration hospitals. Most of them are also "teaching" surgeons with university assignments, who write from both clinical experience and research investigation.

In each area, one of the editors elucidates the problem, which is then discussed by two or more, and sometimes as many as four, specialists. Their investigation considers the complications of duodenal ulcer, various types of polyps of the colon, approaches to repair of hiatal hernia, early operation versus intestinal decompression and delayed surgery in small intestinal obstruction, whether to use an abdominal or perineal approach to correct a prolapse of the rectum, the extent to which antibiotics should be used when operating on the intestine, and whether or not to suture the common bile duct. These are only a few of the questions presented, to say nothing of the still-raging controversy between surgeons and radiologists on the treatment of early breast carcinoma. All the discussions will give pause to the practicing surgeon who may have been inclined to lean too heavily on one authority, and will make him realize that he must remain forever a student, learning constantly and ever willing to study more.

The work is not a revision of the editors' earlier *Current Surgical Management* but an exten-

facts that any person related to the surgical team might need to know, whether nurse, physical therapist, medical librarian, secretary, patient, his fam-

sion of that textbook. It should accompany the first volume in every surgeon's library.

PHILIP THOREK, M.D.

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