THE ROYAL CANCER HOSPITAL CLINICAL
STATISTICAL REPORT 1945-49

No. 1


Most of the published cancer statistics fail to give a true picture of how much or little can be done for sufferers of this disease because they deal with cases which are either selected for their suitability for a particular form of treatment or else constitute a haphazard selection out of all cases seen. In contrast, the Statistical Report of the Royal Cancer Hospital comprises every case seen at this institution during the years under review. Cases are classified by site, sex, age, clinical stage and histological type but they are as yet not numerous enough for a sub-division by treatment methods. The survival rate and recurrence-free rate are given for each year after the patients are first seen and give more information on the course of the disease than the arbitrarily chosen five-year figures. Volume I deals with cancer of mouth and throat, gullet, stomach, lung, rectum, bladder, cervix, skin and breast, the last two groups having been followed for five years or more.

M.H.

EDINBURGH POST-GRADUATE LECTURES
IN MEDICINE

Vol. 6, 1950-1953


The 34 lectures which comprise this volume were delivered in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, during the years 1950-53. They have previously appeared individually in the Edinburgh Medical Journal. Although, as in the earlier volumes of the series, the subject matter covers almost every aspect of the science of medicine, they form together a most interesting cross section of the work which is presently going on in the Edinburgh Medical School.

M.R.E.

WILLIAM CHESELDEN, 1688-1752

By Sir Zachary Cope, K.B., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S.

This is a welcome addition to the series of books describing the giants of the past which Livingstone’s of Edinburgh have been publishing.

The life and work of William Cheselden offers a most interesting field for a biography and Sir Zachary Cope has produced a fascinating book. Cheselden was the greatest lithotomist and one of the greatest surgeons and anatomists of his day, but the real interest of this book lies in the description of his other activities. He was one who played an important part in the separation of the surgeons from the Barber-Surgeons’ Company, and, curiously, he was a powerful force behind the planning and construction of the old Putney (or Fulham) Bridge across the Thames, a bridge which carried traffic for 150 years.

LECTURES ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF
MEDICINE

Volume I. 1951-1952


This volume is a selection from the lectures given in 1951-52 and is a technically well-produced book. Each lecture is a further illustration of the various angles of approach possible in investigation of human physiology and pathology ranging from the particular study of the effects of haemorrhage on the cardiovascular system to the more general study of human growth at adolescence.

To read this book is to keep abreast of current thought in scientific medicine, and the inevitable delay in publication matters little since it is the illustrations of scientific method which is of importance.

W.S.P.

CLINICAL APPROACH TO FEVERS

By C. J. McSweeney, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H.

This short transcript of the author’s lecture notes is full of the sort of information which the newly-qualified doctor in particular will find invaluable. Most of the common diseases which present with fever are considered and the clinical approach to diagnosis is clear. The treatment recommended is up-to-date and the number of debatable or inaccurate statements is few. However, chloromycetin has not been convincingly shown to affect the course of glandular fever (p. 36), and deafness due to streptomycin may be avoided if not more than 1 g. per 24 hours is given to an adult (p. 111). The main impression of this book is that it should be of great value to the newly-qualified doctor and senior medical student.

W.S.P.

THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE TO
PHYSIOTHERAPY


This publication is well described by its title. Its object is to help practitioners who have not had the opportunity of learning more than a bare minimum about physical methods of treatment, to recognize conditions which may be usefully treated by those methods. In this object it succeeds admirably and should prove most useful. It is clearly and concisely set out and easy of reference.

M.C.W.
Edinburgh Post-Graduate Lectures in Medicine Vol. 6, 1950-1953

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