in its relatively extensive review of the pharmacology and interaction of commonly used agents.

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NEW PROSPECTS FOR MEDICINE

Edited by Jonathan M. Austyn
Oxford University Press

This book comprises the collected Wolfson College Lectures for 1987, given at Oxford University. The theme of the lectures provides the book's title . Seven authorities spoke on a topic: Sir Raymond Hoffenberg on "Modern Medicine: Prospects and Problems," Sir Walter Bodmer on "New Approaches to the Prevention and Treatment of Cancer," D. J. Weatherhall on "The New Genetics," G. R. Dunstan on "The Promise of Transplantation," Stephen Lock on "Information and Medical Journals: The Future," and Lewis Thomas on "The Future of Medicine." In his introduction to the book, the editor ably ties together the issues and material of each lecture.

Each chapter is appropriately individualistic, happily both cordial and personal. Lock and Thomas are particularly notable in this regard. As befits a lecture, none is too long. All are well composed and easy to read. The sections on genetics and transplantation, however, require a specialized background for thorough appreciation.

New Prospects for Medicine is topical and timely, with a helpful historical orientation to many of the issues discussed. It should cultivate a readership well versed in policy, philosophy, science, law, and *especially* medicine. The Wolfson Lectures for 1987 were carefully put together, and their clarity and perspective commend them to all readers interested in "the big picture" wherein medicine is so important. However, appreciating the boundaries of a lecture series, it would have been good to have found room for a discussion of the education and training of doctors, thereby adding an eighth piece to this fine book.

SHATTUCK W. HARTWELL, MD

ALLERGY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Edited by Elliot Middleton, Charles Reed, Elliot Ellis, N. Franklin Adkinson, Jr., and John Yunginger
C.V. Mosby

This is the third edition of what has become a standard textbook in allergy and clinical immunology. Volume one is devoted to basic sciences, including immunology, physiology, and pharmacology.

The section on immunology provides concise summaries of recent developments clinically relevant in the field of allergy, such as the mediators of immediate hypersensitivity and late phase reactions. Chapters on aerobiology, allergenic extracts, and in vitro and in vivo allergy testing are also in the immunology section.

Coverage of some of the experimental drugs is brief. The promising anti-allergy compound, azlastine, is only mentioned in the antihistamine chapter.

Asthma is covered in massive detail, encompassing 10 chapters and 250 pages. There are two chapters devoted to rhinitis, nasal polyps, and sinusitis; these could have been expanded with the inclusion of rhinoscopy and computed tomograms of the paranasal sinuses in the management of sinusitis and nasal polyps.

The chapter by Selner and Condemi on unproven diagnostic and therapeutic techniques for allergy is extremely valuable in preparing the physician to answer questions about alternative treatments.

The editors have done an excellent job dividing this two-volume textbook into focused and easily readable chapters. The book is well indexed, and each chapter has an extensive and current list of references. *Allergy Principles and Practice* is a necessity for practicing allergists and is an excellent reference for pulmonologists and primary care physicians.

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