

PREFACE

WITHIN a very few years the roentgenologic examination of the digestive tract has become an extraordinarily efficient and practicable aid to gastro-intestinal diagnosis. The literature on the subject, though extensive, has been widely scattered through periodicals, and, at the time the preparation of this book was begun, no effort had been made in America to collect the well-established facts into a single volume.

Our intent has been to select and arrange in a systematic manner those things which seem not only to be true but worth while, and especially those which we have verified by experience with a large amount of material.

We have purposely avoided extensive descriptions of apparatus since this subject has been rather fully dealt with in several comprehensive publications. On the other hand, we have given detailed protocols of the findings in a considerable number of cases which have come under our observation. Thus our hope is that the book will be of some practical service to our co-workers in the field of roentgenology. For the sake of brevity, many citations of authority have been omitted, but there is no pretense that the bulk of the facts related are from observations original with us. In the occasional instances in which we have dissented from the opinions of others, we have endeavored to quote opposing views with fairness and without conscious implication that our own word should be considered final.

Because of the lessons they may teach, our mistakes have been recorded unsparingly, but these errors should not be regarded as reflecting on the general efficiency of roentgen diagnosis.

To the distinguished brothers whose name designates the clinic in which the work has been done and who have given us exceptional opportunities for the comparison of roentgenologic and operative findings, to our fellow members of the surgical, clinical and pathological staffs, who have heartily coöperated with us, to Mrs. M. H. Mellish of the Editorial Department, whose aid has been unflagging, and to our intimate associates in the roentgen laboratory, who have given us generous help, our obligations are gratefully acknowledged.

THE AUTHORS.

MAYO CLINIC,
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