

SOURCES CONSULTED

ALTHOUGH this dictionary is not a mere compilation, facts have been gathered from many sources. The author has personally scanned hundreds of medical and nursing textbooks and references for the latest information and procedures, and checked through countless numbers of medical, nursing, and biological journals. The information gleaned has been checked with many authorities, but the definitions are the author's own. To give individual credit to each book consulted and to each person written to would obviously be impossible.

The data on the content and chemical composition of foods have been largely based upon the findings of Sherman, although other eminent authorities in the field of food and nutrition have been drawn upon. It should, however, be understood that there can be no definite standard of values for any food, and that this accounts for the differences in the findings of various food specialists.

Much credit should be given to Edwin B. Steen, PH.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, Western Michigan University, for his revisions and contributions pertaining to Bacteriology, Biology, and Parasitology in harmony with modern classifications of these subjects. New data have also been added to the subjects relating to the blood and to the endocrine glands with the help of well-known specialists.

C. W. TABER

FEATURES AND THEIR USE

ONLY a thoroughly trained mechanic would pretend to understand the workings of a complicated piece of machinery with its thousands of parts. Almost any one, however, feels competent to use successfully and to understand a dictionary that in reality represents hundreds of highly specialized subjects. To most persons, a dictionary is a dictionary. Nevertheless, *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary* contains many subjects and features never before incorporated in such a reference work.

This work is a *medical dictionary*, but it is more than that. It is as much a dictionary of medical subject matter as it is a dictionary of medical terms. It is a source book of medical knowledge that will save much time in consulting a great many other works. A few of its more outstanding features are the following:

Pronunciations: Fully 99% of all words are respelled for pronunciation. Long and short vowels are marked diacritically, the primary accent is shown, and frequently the secondary accent. Latin rules cannot be depended upon for the pronunciation of medical words, and authorities do not agree upon any standardized pronunciations. Common usage, however, seems to prevail, and this has been followed as much as feasible in this book. Respellings for pronunciation are accurate and do not distort the actual spelling of the word any more than is necessary to indicate the proper phonetic sound.

Spellings: Diphthongs, for the most part, have been eliminated. Only proper nouns have been capitalized. Words formerly hyphenated, such as gastrointestinal, are now indicated as one word. Proper nouns used as adjectives do not take a capital initial. The letter "k" has been substituted for "c" in such words as leukocytes.

Vocabulary: This is sufficiently extensive to meet the daily needs of the practicing physician, the medical student, and the nurse. Highly specialized topics which belong in separate lexicons, such as botany, and obsolete words have been eliminated. Hundreds of drugs, for instance, that have not been in general use for ten or twenty years, have been weeded out of the vocabulary to make room for the inclusion of many new drugs. Medical literature has been combed to provide the very latest terms now in good medical standing.

Definitions: These stand out in a paragraph separate and apart from all collateral terms, and apart from additional supplementary matter, thus making it easy to read the definitions. The majority of synonyms have their own complete definitions, even at the risk of duplication. Words marked with an asterisk as they appear in a definition indicate that the word is defined in its proper place.

There probably is no profession in which there is less agreement regarding certain subjects than Medicine. The prevailing opinion of the profession, however, has been given in this dictionary, in so far as this has been available. Unfortunately, this may result in an adverse opinion in some instances, especially if the consultant is not familiar with opposing views, or unduly favorable to a definition other than the one expressed.

Subtopics: Many related words are listed and defined in most dictionaries in the same paragraph, such as the many *acids*, or different forms of the same disease. In this dictionary each of these words has its own vocabulary entrance with its definition separate and apart from other material. These topics are listed in alphabetical order, making access to them easy and quick.

Etymologies: This is the only abridged medical dictionary containing the derivations of words showing their Latin, Greek, and other sources with their meanings. These are not merely reproductions from other works, but the result of research which has made possible a great degree of accuracy. Prefixes and Suffixes also appear in alphabetical order the same as words.

Medical Synonyms: Medical synonyms are incorporated with the definition of a word; that is, when there *are* synonyms for a given term. This is a great aid to medical writers and speakers.

Words Pertaining To: Following important words will be found a list of other words pertaining to the one defined. In this way, a complete study or cycle of information pertaining to a given term may be acquired by reading the definitions of these words in the text. In many instances, following the definitions will be found a list of related subjects pertaining to the one defined.

First Aid: Practically every form of accident has been listed with first aid treatment. Included among these are poisons and their antidotes, bites and stings of all kinds, fractures, and other accidents, including different forms of unconsciousness.

Diseases: The principal diseases with their various forms are given, together with their diagnosis and symptoms, prognosis, treatment and nursing procedures, including diet.

Dietetics: Many foods and beverages are listed with all that is known about them. Also mineral content of the human body, and the physiology of digestion, assimilation, and elimination.

Drugs: Many of the terms for drugs have been given their trade-mark names, even though no references to the trade-mark or proprietary nature of the drug is made in the individual listing. These names are in common use by physicians and nurses who may be more familiar with them than with their scientific names.

Nursing Procedures: More of these are given than are usually found in the handbooks of nursing on the market.

Tabulations: Many important tabulations will be found in this text, but long tables which interfere with finding words in the dictionary have been grouped in the Appendix.

The Interpreter: This contains 373 questions and statements which are most often used during examination and taking the patient's history to aid in establishing diagnoses. Each item is in five languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Only consistent use of this medical dictionary will prove its value and reveal much of its treasures.