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Dermabrasion

By E. Epstein, Oakland, Calif.

Introduction

The fourth volume of Current Problems in Dermatology tries to establish the trend started with the apparition of the third volume. It is our purpose to inform the practising dermatologist about the new developments in his field. Experts in their domain give an exposition of the trend of their investigations and enlarge thus the background on which the practising dermatologist has to act in his every day work.

As we work in the clinical situation many times outside of the territory of knowledge it is important to be sure of its border. It is only by applying the new concepts of general medicine and biology that dermatology can hope to remain a speciality of its own. The present development of molecular biology gives an unique opportunity to connect dermatology with the main stream of advancing biological science. The first two contributions in this volume are reviews of clinical conditions. Adam treats the exfoliative erythrodermia's which constitute always a challange to the dermatologist. Significantly Justus, the writer of the review on toxoplasmosis is a pathologist. It is to be expected that as awareness of this disease increases, the diagnosis may be more often and earlier made. Mier and Wolff give reviews on subjects which have been for a long time so obscured by technical difficulties that it was impossible for the practical dermatologist to obtain an insight into
them. Now new technical developments have made it possible for both contributors to give a balanced opinion about their subjects. Wolf-Jürgensen brings new information about the elusive basophil leucocyte and forms the transition to the contribution of Polak and Frey about tolerance and desensitization in experimental eczema. Absorption of their ideas will give the clinician the opportunity to rearrange his clinical observations. It seems not unlikely that at this point cross-fertilization of experiment and clinic might bring real progress in the prevention of skin disease. Finally, Epstein gives a personal opinion about a very practical subject, one of the few parts of dermatology in which the dermatologist can satisfy his urge as an artisan: dermabrasion.

J. W. H. Mali, Nijmegen