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Drug Dosage. The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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New Substances and Methods
Sexually transmitted diseases have accompanied mankind through history and affect individuals of all social levels. Syphilis, the disease which in Fracastoro’s fable (1521) was sent to a herdsman as punishment for his blasphemy and which was brought to Europe by the helmsman of Christopher Columbus, affected soldiers and day labourers as well as Ulrich von Hutten and King Ludwig of Bavaria; it even forced Charles VIII to withdraw his troops from Southern Italy when they were threatened not only by the alliance of Habsburg, Milan, Venice and Aragon but also by an epidemic of STD, predominantly syphilis. The great changes started with the discovery that germs cause STDs at the
beginning of this century and the development of antibiotics to eradicate them in the middle of the century. However, at the end of this century, AIDS is the new challenge demanding all our efforts, even though the ‘classical’ STDs still need to be dealt with too.

Peter Eisner and Fredy Eichmann have succeeded in compiling a comprehensive issue of the Current Problems in Dermatology series, which reflects the current state of the art in diagnosis and treatment of STDs including new methods and new substances.

This book is an important reminder not to underestimate the non-HIV STDs which might have lost their ominous character but still comprise a significant disease burden worldwide.

Günter Burg, Zurich