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Foreword

Pharmacology is one of the most important subjects of medical undergraduate studies. It has shown tremendous changes in the last 50 years. This was mainly because of advances in understanding metabolism of drugs and its interaction with human body as a whole. For keeping oneself updated in medical practice, it is very essential that apart from having knowledge of newer drugs, one also has knowledge of drugs which have lost their importance due to adverse effects or invention of newer better drugs.

Prof SL Agrawal is one of the senior most teachers of pharmacology in India, and has one of the longest undergraduate and postgraduate teaching experience. He was associated with Medical Council of India and was also with National Board of Examination. He was responsible primarily for changing pharmacology subject from animal experiments, chemical structures to practical uses of drugs. Dr Agrawal's one of the greatest qualities is interest of students, for which he had several times fought with the highest authorities in favour of students.

This book reflects the above philosophy of Prof Agrawal. It is very useful for the undergraduate medical students and will help them in understanding pharmacology. This book will also find a place on the table of every practising doctors for quick reference of drugs.

Dr Arun T Dabke

Preface to the First Edition

Medical Council of India, of recent, have restructured undergraduate curriculum with a reduction in time allotted to basic sciences.

The available textbooks on pharmacology deal with all aspects of pharmacology, which contain many facts and details that a student neither needs nor attempt to learn. The knowledge of the history, source, physical and chemical properties, compounding and biochemical effects of drugs essentially fall in the domain of the industry and serve no useful purpose in learning how and why drugs act.

Thus, students should read selectively and this book is an attempt in that direction. The book deals with the basic concepts of how drugs get into the body, how they produce their effects of their fate, the hazards, their adverse effects, and how evidence of their therapeutic effects is assessed.

Students, practically speaking, are not required to memorise lists of alternative drugs and minor differences between them or arbitrary practical details such as dosage or solution strength, since drugs are now available in adult or pediatric dosage forms and moreover such details should never be required of them in examination. However, more important is the frequency of drug administration to achieve a steady blood level.

It is expected that the students will find this book provides them pharmacological knowledge that is interesting, useful, and manageable in the time period allotted in their curriculum, and to develop a rational, critical attitude to drug therapy during their clinical phase of training.

> SL Agarwal Sunil Agarwal

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