

A SELLAR - YEATMAN APPROACH TO MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

D. M. CHAPMAN, PH.D.¹

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Everyone agrees there is an information explosion in the Medical Sciences and that educators must constantly reassess their aims and course content as well as teaching methods. Not too many generations ago medical students laboured over pharmaceutical botany and such anatomical minutiae as the differences between the metatarsals, but as more worthwhile material was discovered, so therefore, energy was rechannelled to the study of newer fields like radiology and immunology. Advances are such that medical education cannot stop at graduation but must continue throughout the doctor's career; nevertheless, there are some facts that every student and graduate alike should know thoroughly. W. C. Sellar and R. J. Yeatman realized this with respect to the study of history and expressed their views in their well known book, **1066 and All That**. Here the didactic approach was to stress the essentials and be-damned-the-rest.

With this same view in mind, I have tried to compose a short examination to test both the medical student and the graduate and lest it be said doctors are an uncultured lot, some of the questions have been engineered to joggle the finer realms of the psyche. Although this test is slanted towards my own interests in anatomy, the same approach could be adapted to the other fields of medicine.

Gross Anatomy

- (1) How many lumbar vertebrae are there? (Be brief.)
- (2) Arrange in order: middle constrictor, inferior constrictor and superior constrictor.
- (3) Who studies aponeuroses?
 - (a) psychiatrists
 - or
 - (b) Fascists

- (4) What is a ligament? (Make your answer ostentatious.)
- (5) Which is more alike; the spleen or the liver or **vice versa**
- (6) Account for the variability in the relationship of the uterus to Tyson's glands.
- (7) What are the salient features of the scaphoid bone?
- (8) How would you confuse:
 - (a) Cremaster with an Indian chief
 - (b) Cryptorchid with funeral flowers
 - (c) A certain male sex gland with a Seminole vehicle
 - (d) Circumcision with penal reform
 - (e) Dermatome with skin book?

Microanatomy

- (9) Did anybody say, "Sweat glands are coiled like a fairy's intestine"? If not, who did say it?
- (10) Have you the faintest recollection of:
 - (a) The histology of the induseum griseum
 - (b) The development of glomus coccygeum?
- (11) What **do** you have the faintest recollection of?

Clinical Anatomy

- (12) What is the prognosis for apodictic prolixity of the epithalamium? (Bring Galen into your answer)

Cultural Anatomy

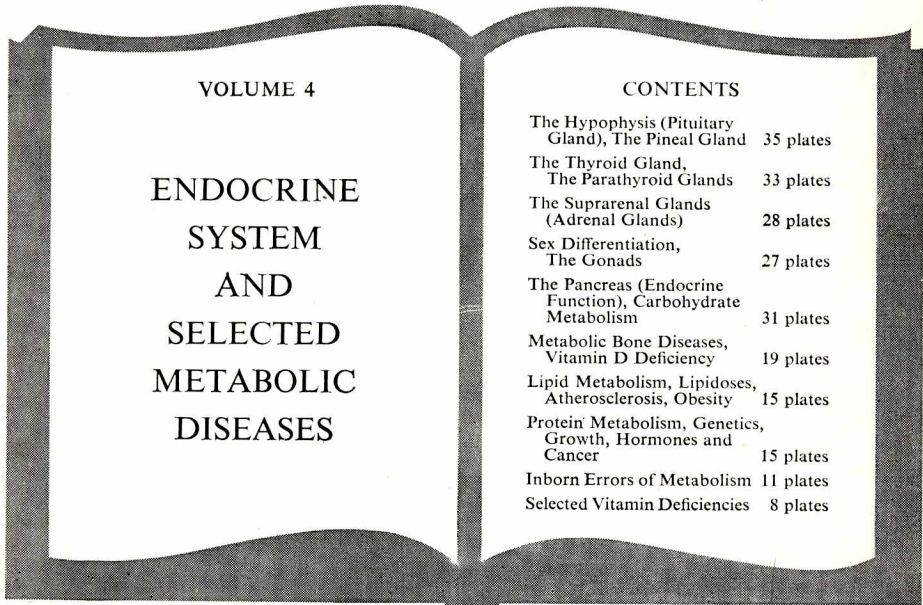
- (13) Give a brief account of the contribution made to anatomy by the following workers:
 - (a) The American woman, Amelia Foote
 - (b) The Italian, Ilio Costalis
 - (c) The Englishman, Lord Osis?
- (14) Where would you hear the best music?
 - (a) Band of Broca
 - (b) T. Dorsi
 - (c) Cytologist (i.e. cellist)
 - (d) Public symphony
- (15) Use an apostrophic anacoluthon to express your love of anatomy.

¹Assistant Professor of Anatomy, Dalhousie University.

A new CIBA Collection of Medical Illustrations

222 full-color plates
by Frank H. Netter, M.D.

Descriptive text by
thirty internationally
known authorities



Comprehensive cross-referenced index and bibliography

Sold at cost \$22.00

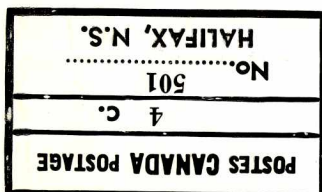
Matching volumes:

Volume 1, Nervous System **\$10.00**. Volume 2, Reproductive System **\$13.00**. Volume 3, Part I, Digestive System: Upper Digestive Tract **\$12.50**. Volume 3, Part II, Digestive System: Lower Digestive Tract **\$15.00**. Volume 3, Part III, Digestive System: Liver, Biliary Tract and Pancreas **\$12.00**.

For complete information and order forms, please write to CIBA Company Ltd., Dorval, Que.

C I B A
DORVAL, QUEBEC

6063



Dr. J. G. Aldous,
Medical Science Bldg.,
College St.,
Halifax, N. S.