

EUBIOTIC MEDICINE

I SHOULD like to submit the term "eubiotic medicine" to take the place of or to supplement the term "preventive medicine." I intend this term to indicate those phases of medical science and of medical service which go beyond the prevention of disease and which foster as well as advance the biologic growth, development and well-being of the individual.

It appears to me that there is no term now current which adequately represents these phases of medicine. The term "preventive medicine" is self-limiting in the adjective preventive. Furthermore, the term "preventive medicine" historically has very distinctive connotation. It represents and embodies a period in the development of medicine which is now definitely past. Its definitive connotations are inherent in the term. They are the very opposite of what is most distinctly characteristic of present-day medicine and what is implied in the proposed term "eubiotic medicine." The eminent proponents of preventive medicine labored in the conviction that the highest competences of medicine were to prevent disease. They definitely believed that it was not possible to directly promote biological well-being. This credo was best stated by Von Behring in the introduction to his "Gesammelte Abhandlungen zur ätiologische Therapie von ansteckenden Krankheiten."¹ He stated:

... For we are of the opinion that in combating diseases we can achieve more by attacking the causes of disease than by an attack on the living cells and organs. . . .

Until now we only know that even the best intended, direct attacks on living cells and organs in order to animate or to stimulate them into a state of modified activity, are more likely to harm the cells and organs, than to bestow upon them more health and resistance.

Other terms have been advanced to convey the meanings not expressed by "preventive medicine." One such is "positive health." This term is to say the least barbaric. Some among the English have favored "social medicine," but this term, as was recently pointed out in *The Lancet* of October 30, 1943, page 546 (editorial entitled "Teaching of Preventive Medicine"), encompasses far too many of the economic, industrial and social factors that affect well-being. It is, in other words, vague because it is too embracing.

The elements that enter into the composition of the term "eubiotic medicine" are patent. There are also good precedents for this term in such words as eugenic, euthanasia and euphoria.

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¹ E. Behring, "Gesammelte Abhandlungen zur ätiologischen Therapie von ansteckenden Krankheiten," Leipzig, Georg Thieme, 1893, p. lxx, lxxi.

HANDBOOK ON LABORATORY ANIMALS

THE Universities Federation for Animal Welfare is compiling a handbook on the care and management of laboratory animals. The aim is to provide a concise, practical manual which will facilitate the uniform and humanitarian care of the smaller laboratory animals, and it is in no way intended to produce a comprehensive monograph for each species. It is hoped to publish the work at a price that will make it readily accessible to technicians as well as to scientific workers.

The different chapters deal with (1) animal houses and their pests; (2) the rat; (3) the mouse; (4) the rabbit; (5) the guinea-pig; (6) the vole; (7) the hamster; (8) the cotton rat; (9)¹ the deer-mouse; (10) the ferret; (11) the hedgehog; (12) the pigeon; (13) the fowl; (14) the canary; (15) the frog, the African clawed-toad (*Xenopus laevis*) and certain other amphibia; (16) certain fish; (17) the training of laboratory assistants; (18) the law and practice of animal experimentation, and (19) the use of statistical methods. All chapters are being drafted by individual workers drawn from various laboratories, including the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Agricultural Research Council's field station; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Laboratory and also its Fisheries Research Section, the Harper Adams Agricultural College, the Bureau of Animal Population, and various other hospital laboratories and university departments. Collaboration is being received also from the National Institute for Medical Research, the National Veterinary Medical Association and individual workers in many fields. In order to obtain supplementary information, a questionnaire has been forwarded to all workers in Great Britain who hold a license for animal experimentation.²

In present circumstances it is not practicable to draw fully upon American experience, but as general editor of the handbook I should be most grateful for any information which workers in the United States and Canada would forward to me. Reprints, of which two copies would be welcomed, would assist us in our task. The information will be gratefully acknowledged in the text, unless the contrary is requested by those forwarding it. It is hoped that the handbook will be made available both in the United States and in Canada.

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² The author will be glad to send copies to others on request.