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BOOK REVIEW

Title: CLAYTONS ELECTROTHERAPY
Authors: A. Forster and N. Palastanga
Publisher: Bailliere Tindall/W. B. Saunders. Available from Holt Saunders Ltd., 1 St. Anne's Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3UN
 Price £8.50 ISBN 0-7020-1100-2

Claytons Electrotherapy, Theory and Practice, has been a valued textbook for many generations of student physiotherapists. It is now in its ninth edition, the first edition being in 1948.

Miss Angela Forster, MCSP, DipTP, Principal of Normanby College School of Physiotherapy, Kings College Hospital, and Mr. Nigel Palastanga, BA, MCSP, DipTP, Assistant Principal of the School of Physiotherapy, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, have undertaken a major revision of the Eighth edition which they produced in 1981.

Here is a more streamlined textbook which has much updated and new information added to most chapters. On first examination the binding seems much more secure than the previous edition.

Chapter one gives a clear introduction to physics and basic electrical equipment. Next is a valuable explanation of basic electrical components which explains mains supply house wiring, plug wiring, earthing and useful information concerning cost of electricity, electric shock and its effects and treatment. Added to chapter three is the technique of Iontophoresis, Biofeedback, which is a valuable adjunct to physiotherapy, though not a treatment in its own right. Pain modulation using TNS and Interferential therapy, Pulsed Electromagnetic Energy an interesting follow-on to the very useful section on SWD. Is it the EMF itself and NOT the heat produced that influences body tissues?

Laser (Light Amplification Stimulated Emission Radiations) is the newest modality in electrotherapeutics. There is a simple and clear explanation of the types of laser available, how it is used and contra-indications.

Chapter five is much expanded and enhanced by good references. I would have welcomed emphasis on the need for accuracy in localising the site of treatment with U/S. An interesting paragraph on ozone formation has been added to the clear description of the theory and practice of using Ultraviolet Radiation.

The final two chapters cover Cold therapy and Mechanics. The chapter on mechanics is essential as an aid in the study of movement. Mechanics is a branch of applied mathematics, dealing with motion and tendencies to motion which is of considerable importance to the physiotherapist.

I strongly recommend this new edition both to students and clinicians.

Margaret John, MCSP