

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of
Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The battle against heart disease

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of
Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

By the same author

The Battle against Bacteria

published by Cambridge University Press, 1965

translated into Norwegian, 1967; Japanese, 1968;

also Serbo-Croat, Czech and Hungarian in preparation.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P. E. BALDRY

M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P.

Fellow of the Royal

College of Physicians

The battle against heart disease

*A physician traces the history of
man's achievements in this field
for the general reader*

With a foreword by

J. F. GOODWIN M.D., F.R.C.P.

Professor of Clinical Cardiology

at Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London

CAMBRIDGE

at the University Press 1971

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521103152

© Cambridge University Press 1971

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1971

This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 75-108098

ISBN 978-0-521-07490-2 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10315-2 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Foreword

THE rapid developments in the understanding of cardiovascular disorders add emphasis and drama to the continuously unfolding story of cardiology. Because of the increase in technology and the volume of publication it is often difficult to appreciate the background to, or the significance of, new developments. As the problems of cardiovascular disorders increase, so knowledge of the elements of heart disease becomes the more important for all readers. Thus it is a pleasure to read Dr Baldry's fascinating book which traces the history of heart disease from the sixth century B.C. to the present time. Dr Baldry writes clearly and concisely and has sifted a mass of historical material to put the essentials into a highly readable form, achieving a nice blend of historical anecdote with scientific detail.

Starting with early concepts of circulatory disease in the days of the Greek Empire, the text moves on through the Renaissance period, to the discovery of the circulation of the blood, early understanding of the structure and function of the heart, and finally to modern studies of hypertension, coronary artery disease and cardiac surgery.

Dr Baldry has a feeling for medical history that emerges clearly from his writing, and the characters who move through his pages have depth and reality. Despite the wealth of material the text is never dull. Both lay and medical readers should enjoy reading this book and profit from the opportunity to view recent advances against the backcloth of past discoveries.

September 1969

J. F. GOODWIN M.D., F.R.C.P.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of
Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To K.M.Y.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

Foreword	<i>page</i> v
Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	x
1 Preliminary reconnaissance by the early Greeks	1
2 Reappraisal during the Renaissance	8
3 The circulation discovered	16
4 Respiration and its purpose	22
5 The structure and function of the heart	32
6 Simultaneous attack on the joints and the heart	42
7 The foxglove as a therapeutic weapon	49
8 Tapping and listening	54
9 The use and misuse of the stethoscope	65
10 The generation of electricity in the heart	75
11 Disorders of rate and rhythm	85
12 The lifeline threatened	106
13 Preventing and combating 'heart attacks'	125
14 The heart under pressure	137
15 Invasion of the heart by bacteria	147
16 Pump failure	152
17 Congenital heart disease	157
18 The triumphs of surgery	167
Index	185

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

'Those who were before us did much, but they did not complete; much of the work yet still remains and much will remain, and the opportunity of adding something will not be denied to anyone born a thousand ages later.'

- SENECA

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

IN recent years much publicity has been given in the press and on television, to the efforts of the medical profession in their battle against heart disease. The purpose of this book is to give the general reader a better understanding of the subject by showing how our knowledge has gradually evolved.

It is also hoped that it will be of interest to doctors, medical students and nurses, because at a time when medicine is advancing so rapidly that textbooks are quickly out of date and what was taught fifty years ago appears strangely old-fashioned, there is an erroneous tendency to consider that the modern practice of medicine is based almost entirely on recent discoveries. This misapprehension can only be corrected by a study of history, when it becomes apparent that although there has been a rapid expansion of our knowledge in the present era, in conjunction with technological advances in science generally, medical practice is none the less still profoundly influenced by work of fundamental and lasting value contributed by many pioneers throughout the centuries.

My sincere thanks are due to Miss Kathleen Young for her interest, encouragement and untiring assistance in the preparation of the typescript for publication. Also, to Mr S. H. Watkins of the Wellcome Institute of the History of Medicine, whose knowledge and enthusiasm was of considerable help in my search for suitable illustrations.

P. E. B.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10315-2 - The Battle Against Heart Disease: A Physician Traces the History of Man's Achievements in this Field for the General Reader

P. E. Baldry

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

I gratefully acknowledge the permission to reproduce published illustrations granted by the holders of copyright, many of whom kindly supplied prints:

The *American Journal of Medical Sciences* for the electrocardiogram on p. 116; the Cambridge Instrument Company Ltd, Cambridge, for the photographs pp. 80 and 83 from S. L. Barron: *The development of the electrocardiograph*; Charing Cross Hospital Medical School and Longmans Group Ltd, for the figure p. 149; J. and A. Churchill Ltd, for the photograph of E. H. Starling, p. 40 from Starling: *Principles of human physiology*, 1941; Eyre and Spottiswoode for the figure p. 82 from Wood: *Diseases of the heart and circulation*; R. T. Gunther and Oxford University Press for the portrait of John Floyer, p. 86; Her Gracious Majesty the Queen for the drawing p. 11; the *Irish Journal of Medical Science* for the portrait of Robert Adams, p. 88; Mr John Jackson, F.R.C.S., of Harefield Hospital, Middlesex for the photographs on pp. 92 and 176; Dr Keith Jefferson of St George's Hospital and the National Heart Hospital for those on p. 180; National Library of Medicine for the portraits pp. 113 and 114; J. Playfair McMurrich for the self-portrait of Leonardo da Vinci, p. 9; Mrs Joan Prince and the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine for the photograph of Sir Henry Dale, p. 40; *Punch* for the cartoon p. 135; and the Wellcome Institute Trustees for illustrations pp. 5, 6, 12, 13, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 38, 42, 43, 44, 49, 52, 54, 56, 58, 61, 64, 65, 68, 70, 71, 76, 77, 81, 83, 87, 89, 94, 95, 96, 107, 110, 112, 125, 137, 141, 142, 147. Diagrams on pp. 32, 160, 163, 164 are based on illustrations in *Congenital heart abnormalities*, Ross Laboratories; p. 36 is based on a diagram in C. Best and N. Taylor, *The physiological basis of medical practice*, Williams & Wilkins, 1945; p. 45 on a drawing in H. Dible & T. Davie, *Pathology*, Churchill, 1939; p. 178 is based on an illustration in an article by D. B. Effler in *Clinical Symposia* vol. 21, no. 1 1969.

P. E. B.