

(12) LJ Witts (ed) (1964)

Medical Surveys and Clinical Trials: some methods and applications of group research in medicine

Second Edition

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Preamble

This is the second edition of no. (5) above. The authorship remains the same, however some authors have acquired additional qualifications, and some have changed institutions. As explained in the preface (page x), chapters 6 (Follow-up studies, now, Volunteers, controls, placebos and questionnaires), 15 (Diseases of the joints) and 18 (Tropical diseases) have been rewritten, and substantial alterations have been made in other chapters; the references throughout have been brought up to date.

Aims

In the five years since the first edition it has become clear that we are at the beginning of a revolution in methods of acquiring, processing and retrieving data as a result of the introduction of computers and other electronic devices. These methods are already being applied to the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of disease and they are certain to be used in the measurement of the hereditary component of illnesses, the discovering of adverse reactions to drugs, and a host of other purposes. No apology is therefore necessary for issuing a second edition of a book which may, we hope, continue to serve as a primer for such studies (Preface, pages x and xi).

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