Preamble
There is a facsimile of the frontispiece at the James Lind Library (www.jameslindlibrary.org/waife-so-shapiro-ap-1959). The title page states simply “By Fourteen Authors” and the two editors, Waife and Shapiro, are identified only in the last sentence of the Preface.

Aims
This book is written for the many who participate in the search for and evaluation of better and safer drugs to treat human disease. Because more and more scientists, both medical and allied workers, find themselves planning clinical trials, administering new drugs, observing reactions, and evaluating results, dissemination of knowledge of the proper techniques for these activities has become extremely important. Interest in the methods and techniques of clinical research is high and, of course, reflects the realisation of the numerous pitfalls and problems in human experimentation. This book, then, deals with experimental method and design, in the proper evaluation of new drugs in that most unpredictable of animals – man. It is offered to both the career investigator and the part-time researcher with the objective of improving the calibre of the clinical trial in order to define more accurately and rapidly the potentials of new drugs (Preface, pages ix and x).

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Contributing authors
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16) Problems of publication (SO Waife).

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