

R

Ra: Chemical symbol for radium.

rabbeting (rab'et-ing): The fitting together of the jagged ends of a fractured bone.

rabic (rā'bik): Pertaining to rabies.

rabid (rab'id): 1. Relating to rabies. 2. Affected with rabies. 3. Extremely violent, furious.

rabies (rā'bēz): An acute, highly fatal, infectious disease of warm-blooded animals, especially the dog, cat, wolf, fox; caused by a filterable virus; attacks chiefly the nervous system; fatal if untreated. May be transmitted to humans through the infected saliva of a rabid animal, usually through a bite, primarily dog-bite. Characterized by the formation of Negri bodies (*q.v.*) in the brain, central nervous system excitement, wild madness, paralysis, and often, death. Syn., *hydrophobia*. — rabid, rabic, adj.

rabiform (rā'bi-form): Resembling rabies.

race: 1. A group within a species of animals or plants, connected by common descent or origin. 2. A tribe, nation, or people, regarded as of common stock.

rachi-, rachio-: Combining forms denoting relationship to the spine.

rachial (rā'ki-al): Relating to the vertebral column. Spinal.

rachialgia (rā-ki-al'ji-a): Pain in the spine.

rachianaesthesia (rā'ki-an-es-thē'zi-a): Spinal anaesthesia; see under ANAESTHESIA.

rachicele (rā'ki-sēl): Protrusion of the spinal canal contents to the exterior, as in spina bifida (*q.v.*).

rachicentesis (rā'ki-sen-tē'sis): Spinal puncture for the aspiration of fluid. Also called *rachio-centesis*.

rachidial (rā-kid'i-al): Spinal.

rachigraph (rā'ki-graf): An instrument for recording the curves of the spine.

rachiocampsis (rā-ki-ō-camp'sis): Curvature of the spine.

rachiochysis (rā-ki-ok'i-sis): The accumulation of fluid in the subarachnoid space of the spinal canal.

rachiodynia (rā'ki-ō-din'i-a): A painful condition of the spinal column.

rachiometer (rā-ki-om'i-ter): An apparatus for measuring curvatures in the spinal column.

rachiomylitis (rā'ki-ō-mī-e-lī'tis): Inflammation of the spinal cord.

rachiorpathy (rā-ki-op'a-thi): Any disease of the spine. *Spondylopathy*.

rachioscoliosis (rā'ki-ō-skō-li-ō'sis): Lateral curvature of the spine.

rachiotomy (rā-ki-ot'o-mi): An incision into the spinal column or into a vertebra. See also LAMINECTOMY.

rachis (rā'kis): The spinal column.

rachischisis (ra-kis'ki-sis): A congenital fissure in the spinal column. Spina bifida (*q.v.*).

rachitic (ra-ki'tik): Relating to or affected with rickets. R. ROSARY OR BEADS, a row of bead-like nodules that form on the ribs at their junctions with the cartilage, sometimes seen in children with rickets.

rachitis (ra-kī'tis): 1. Rickets (*q.v.*). 2. An inflammatory condition of the spine.

rachitogenic (ra-kit-ō-jen'ik): Producing rickets.

racism (rā'-sizm): 1. The theory that distinctive human characteristics and abilities are determined by race. 2. Belief in the superiority of some races over others, and the resulting prejudice (*q.v.*).

rad: The standard unit of absorbed radiation dose; replaces the term roentgen as the unit of dosage; Gy (gray) is the SI unit. It is a measure of the x-ray energy absorbed per gram of tissue.

radectomy (rā-dek'to-mi): Surgical removal of all or part of the root of a tooth.

radiad (rā'di-ad): Toward the radius or the radial side.

radial (rā'di-al): In anatomy, relating to the radius. R. ARTERY the artery at the thumb side of the wrist; R. NERVE, arises in the cervical plexus, runs around the back of the humerus and down the outer side of the forearm; supplies the extensor muscles of the elbow, wrist, and hand; R. PULSE the pulse felt by placing the fingers over the radial artery at the wrist.

radiant (rā'di-ant): Emitting rays or beams of light. R. ENERGY, energy that is transmitted in the form of waves, including radiowaves, infrared and ultraviolet rays, visible light, x- and gamma rays.

radiate (rā'di-āt): 1. To spread from a common point or centre. 2. To emit radiation.

radiation (rā'di-ā'shun): 1. Divergence in all directions from a common centre. 2. In anatomy, a structure made up of divergent elements, particularly a group of nerve fibres which diverge from a common origin. 3. A general term for any form of radiant energy such as that emitted from a luminous body, x-ray tube or radioactive substance such as radium; R. RECALL a condition that occurs several weeks after the simultaneous administration of radiation and chemotherapy; presents as an erythema, with vesicle formation or desquamation and often followed by permanent pigmentation of the skin; R. SICKNESS, that which follows the therapeutic use of radioactive substances or x-rays; symptoms include nausea, vomiting, anorexia, headache. The term is also used in reference to illness resulting from fallout of atomic bombs; R. THERAPY the therapeutic use of x-rays or radioactive elements.

radical (rad'i-kal): 1. In chemistry, a substance that, when dissolved in water, will dissociate into elements or groups of elements that will each carry a positive or negative charge. 2. A group of atoms which enters into and goes out of chemical combination without change, and which forms one of the fundamental constituents of a molecule. 3. Relating to or going to the root of a thing; in medicine, going to the root of a disease process. 4. The smallest branch of a vessel or nerve; a rootlet; FREE R. a radical, extremely reactive and having a very short half life (10^{-5} seconds, less in an aqueous solution) which carries an impaired electron; R. OPERATION see RADICAL SURGERY under SURGERY.

radicalgia (ra-dik'ū-lal'ji-a): Neuralgia of the sensory root, or roots of a spinal nerve or nerves; caused by irritation.

radicectomy (ra-dik'ū-lek'to-mi): Excision of the root of a spinal nerve.

radiculitis (ra-dik'ū-lī'tis): Inflammation of the root of a nerve, particularly a spinal nerve.

radiculography (ra-dik'ū-log'ra-fi): Radiographic examination of the cauda equina and lumbar nerve roots of the spinal cord after injection of a water-soluble radiopaque medium.

radiculomeningomyelitis (ra-dik'ū-lō-menin'gō-mī-e-lī'tis): Inflammation of the spinal nerve roots, the meninges, and the spinal cord.

radiculomyelopathy (ra-dik'ū-lō-mī-e-lop'a-thi): Any disease of the nerve roots and spinal cord.

radiculoneuropathy (ra-dik'ū-lō-nū-rop'a-thi): Any disease of the spinal nerve roots and spinal nerves.

radiculopathy (ra-dik'ū-lop'a-thi): Any disease of the spinal nerve roots.

radio-: Combining form denoting: 1. Radiation; radiant energy. 2. The radius. 3. Radium.

radioactive (rā'di-ō-ak'tiv): Relates to a substance that gives off penetrating rays due to the spontaneous breaking up of its atoms. R. DECAY the decrease, over time, in the number of radioactive atoms in a radioactive substance; R. FALLOUT a mixture of debris and radioactive particles that fall to Earth following a nuclear explosion; R. GOLD see RADIOGOLD; R. IODINE see under RADIO-IODINE; R. ISOTOPES forms of an element that have an unstable nucleus; in becoming more stable they give off ionizing radiation; R. MERCURY, used in investigation of brain lesions; R. TECHNETIUM, used for investigation of visceral lesions; R. TRACER, a labelled element that emits radiation and so can be traced throughout a chemical, biological, or physical process.

radioactivity (rā'di-ō-ak-tiv'i-ti): The quality or property of emitting radiant energy; possessed naturally by certain elements such as radium and uranium; certain other elements become radioactive after bombardment with neutrons or other particles.

radioautography (rā'di-ō-aw'tog'ra-fi): A form of photography that reveals the location and distribution of radioactive elements in a test material.

radiobicipital (rā'di-ō-bī-sip'i-tal): Relating to the radius and the biceps muscle of the arm.

radiobiology (rā'di-ō-bī-ol'ō-ji): The study of the effects of ionizing radiation on living tissue. — radiobiological, adj.; radiobiologically, adv.

radiocarcinogenesis (rā'di-ō-kar'si-nō-jen'e-sis): Cancer caused by exposure to radiation.

radiocarpal (rā'di-ō-kar'pal): Relating to the radius and the carpus.

radiochemistry (rā'di-ō-kem'is-tri): The branch of chemistry that deals with radioactive substances and their properties.

radiocurable (rā'di-ō-kūr'a-b'l): Refers to a condition that may be curable by radiation therapy.

radiode (rā'di-ōd): A metal container for a radioactive substance used in radiotherapy.

radiodermatitis (rā'di-ō-der-ma-tī'tis): Reddening and irritation of the skin due to overexposure to x-rays or radium.

radiodiagnosis (rā'di-ō-dī-ag-nō'sis): Diagnosis made by use of x-ray pictures.

radiodigital (rā'di-ō-dij'i-tal): Relating to the radius and the fingers on the radial side of the arm.

radioelectrocardiology (rā'di-ō-ē-lek'trō-kar-di-ol'ō-ji): A technique in electrocardiology whereby the heart impulses of a patient who is engaged in the normal activities of daily living are beamed by radio waves to a receiver placed at a distance from the patient.

radioencephalography (rā'di-ō-en-kef-a-log'ra-fi, -sef-): Recording of changes in the electrical potential of the brain by radio waves beamed from the patient directly to the recording apparatus.

radioepidermitis (rā'di-ō-ep'i-der-mī'tis): Destructive changes in the skin resulting from overexposure to radiation.

radioepithelitis (rā'di-ō-ep'i-thē-lī'tis): Disintegration and destruction of epithelium caused by overexposure to irradiation.

radiogenic (rā'di-ō-jen'ik): Produced by radiation.

radiogold (rā'di-ō-gōld'): A radioactive isotope of gold; has diagnostic and therapeutic uses.

radiogram (rā'di-ō-gram): An image produced on a radiosensitive surface by radiation, particularly by x-rays, or by photographing an image made by a radiopaque substance.

radiographer (rā-di-ōg'ra-fer): A professionally qualified health care worker who works within a diagnostic x-ray department or in a radiotherapy department.

radiography (rā-di-ōg'ra-fi): The making of a photograph or a record by the action of certain rays on a sensitized surface such as film; roentgenography. **CONTRAST R.** a technique involving injection of a radiopaque fluid into a cavity or tissue space before x-ray films are made; utilized in venography, arteriography, arthrography, and myelography; **DIAGNOSTIC R.**, is concerned with obtaining roentgenographic information useful in making diagnoses; **THERAPEUTIC R.** treatment by radiation from x-rays, radium, or radioisotopes.

radiohumeral (rā'di-ō-hū'mer-al): Relating to the radius and the humerus.

radioimmunity (rā'di-ō-im-mū'ni-ti): Reduction of sensitivity to radiation which may be produced by repeated irradiation.

radioimmunoassay (rā'di-ō-im-mu-nō-as'ā): A sensitive investigative procedure utilizing a radioactive material and blood plasma to determine the presence and concentration of the particular hormone or other natural substance under study. Useful in diagnosis and treatment of diabetes, thyroid disease, sterility, growth

disorders, certain types of hepatitis, and hormone-producing cancers.

radioiodine (rā'di-ō-ī'ō-dēn): A radioactive isotope of iodine; ¹³⁰I and ¹³¹I being most frequently used in medicine for diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the thyroid gland. **R. UPTAKE TEST** a test in which the person is given a small dose of radioactive iodine and the radioactivity of the thyroid gland is subsequently measured. If the gland is overactive, more than 45% of the iodine will be taken up by the gland within four hours. If the gland is underactive, less than 20% will be taken up after 48 hours.

radioisotope (rā'di-ō-ī'sō-tōp): A radioactive isotope (*q.v.*) of an element; an element that has the same atomic number as another but a different atomic weight, and exhibits the property of spontaneous decomposition. When fed or injected can be traced with a Geiger counter. **R. SCAN** pictorial representation of the distribution and amount of radioactive isotope present.

radiolesion (rā'di-ō-lē'zhun): A lesion produced by exposure to radiation.

radiologist (rā-di-ol'o-jiist): One skilled in the use of x-rays and other forms of radiant energy for the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

radiology (rā-di-ol'ō-ji): The science that deals with radioactive substances, particularly that branch of medicine that is concerned with the use of the sources of radiant energy in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. — radiologic, radiological, adj.

radiolucent (rā-di-ō-lū'sent): Being entirely or partially permeable to x-rays or other forms of radiant energy. — radiolucency, n.

radiometer (rā-di-ōm'i-ter): An instrument used for detecting and measuring radiant energy, particularly small amounts of such energy.

radiomimetic (rā'di-ō-mi-met'ik): Producing effects similar to those of radiotherapy. See **CYTOTOXIC**.

radiomutation (rā'di-ō-mū-tā'shun): Changes in cells following exposure to radiation.

radionecrosis (rā'di-ō-ne-krō'sis): Ulceration or destruction of tissue caused by exposure to radiant energy.

radioneuritis (rā'di-ō-nū-rī'tis): Neuritis resulting from exposure to radiant energy.

radiopaque (rā-di-ō-pāk'): Referring to a substance that does not permit the passage of x-rays or other forms of radiation. Areas or organs treated with a **R.** substance prior to taking x-ray pictures appear light or white on the film. — radiopacity, n.

radioparent (rā-di-ō-par'ent): The characteristic of being penetrable by roentgen rays.

radiopathology (rā'di-ō-pa-thol'o-ji): The pathology of the effects of radioactive substances on cells and tissues.

radiopharmaceutical (rā'di-ō-far-ma-sū'ti-kal): Pertaining to (1) radiopharmacy, or (2) a radioactive chemical or substance used in diagnosis or treatment of disease.

radiopharmacy (rā'di-ō-far'ma-si): The branch of pharmacy that deals with the preparation of radioactive substances used in therapy.

radioreceptor (rā'di-ō-ri-sep'tor): A receptor that is responsive to radiant energy such as heat or light.

radioresistance (rā'di-ō-ri-zis'tans): The resistance of cells or tissues to the effects of radiation, said especially of certain tumours.

radioscopy (rā-di-os'kō-pi): The examination of inner structures of the body by means of x-ray; fluoroscopy.

radiosensitivity (rā'di-ō-sen-si-tiv'i-ti): The condition of being sensitive to the effects of radiant energy; term often used to describe cells that can be destroyed by radiation. — radiosensitive, adj.

radiotelemetry (rā'di-ō-tel-em'i-tri): Transmission of data, including biological data, by means of radio; a technique developed for monitoring vital signs of astronauts while in flight and now adapted for use by hospitals for monitoring patients at a distance.

radiotherapeutics (rā'di-ō-ther-a-pū'tiks): 1. Radiotherapy. 2. The body of knowledge concerning what is known about the therapeutic use of radiation therapy.

radiotherapist (rā'di-ō-ther'a-pist): One who specializes in radiotherapy (*q.v.*).

radiotherapy (rā'di-ō-ther'a-pi): Treatment of disease by x-rays, radium, radon seeds, cobalt, sunlight, or other forms of radioactive substances or radiant energy.

radiothermy (rā'di-ō-ther'mi): The use of radiant heat in therapy; short-wave diathermy.

radiotoxaemia (rā'di-ō-tok-sē'mi-a): Toxaemia produced by exposure to a radioactive substance.

radiotransparent (rā'di-ō-trans-par'ent): Refers to substances through which x-rays can pass without hindrance. — radiotransparency, n.

radiotropic (rā'di-ō-trōp'ik): Affected or influenced by radiation.

radioulnar (rā'di-ō-ul'nar): Relating to both bones of the forearm, the radius and ulna.

radium (rā'di-um): A rare radioactive element found in pitchblende and other uranium min-

erals; discovered in 1898 by Marie Curie, a Polish scientist in Paris. Used in radiotherapy, especially in the treatment of malignancies. **R.** IMPLANTATION the implanting of radium in a tumour for therapeutic treatment; **R.** NEEDLE a slender container containing **r.** that is inserted into tissue in treatment of malignant growths; **R.** THERAPY, treatment by radium or radon in cancer therapy.

radius (rā'di-us): 1. The bone on the outer side of the forearm. 2. A line radiating from the centre to the periphery of a circle or sphere. — radial, adj.

RAE: Abbreviation for Research Assessment Exercise (*q.v.*).

Raeder's syndrome: A rare condition characterized by trigeminal neuralgia followed by sensory loss on the affected side of the face, weakness of facial muscles, miosis, and ptosis of the upper eyelid; usually due to a lesion in the trigeminal ganglion.

rale (ral): An abnormal, non-continuous, bubbling, crackling, or gurgling sound associated with pneumonia, congestive heart failure, and long periods of recumbency; heard at the base of the lungs at inspiration when fluid is present in the small air passages and alveoli. Usually described as moist or dry, or as fine, medium, or coarse. Fine rales are high pitched, crackling, or popping; they are indicative of fluid in the smallest airways. Medium rales are of lower pitch and have a wetter sound; they are indicative of fluid in the bronchioles. Coarse rales are low pitched and loud; they indicate fluid in the bronchi and trachea.

ramify (ram'i-fī): To branch or diverge in different directions. — ramification, n.

Ramsay-Hunt syndrome: See HUNT'S SYNDROME.

Ramstedt's operation: An operation to relieve pyloric stenosis in infants by dividing the pyloric muscle, leaving the mucous lining intact.

ramulus (ram'ū-lus): A small ramus or branch.

ramus (rā'mus): 1. An elongated process of a bone. 2. A branch. Term used to describe the smaller structure formed when a larger one divides or forks; applied to bones, nerves, blood vessels. **MANDIBULAR R.** the upturned perpendicular part of the mandible on each side. — rami, pl.

random (ran'-dom): Relating to choices or occurrences without any perceivable pattern or logical connection.

randomization (ran'-dom-ī-zā'-shun): A process for the selection of subjects for a trial or study, which minimizes bias and other irrele-

vant factors, resulting in the production of statistically reliable data, using, for example, random-numbers tables or computer-generated random numbers. Using coin flips, odd-even numbers, patient social security numbers, days of the week, medical record numbers, or other such pseudo- or quasi-random processes, are not truly randomized.

randomized controlled trials (ran' -dom-īzd): Clinical trials that involve at least one test group and one control group (*q.v.*), concurrent enrolment and follow-up of the groups, and in which the treatments to be administered are selected by a random process, see RANDOMIZATION.

range: The difference between the upper and lower limits of a series of values.

range of motion (movement): Refers to the range through which a joint can move or be moved; measured in degrees of a circle. ROM EXERCISES exercises to restore motion in a joint or to keep joints functioning normally; may be active, *i.e.*, performed by the patient himself, or passive, *i.e.*, performed by a therapist who moves the body part through the possible range.

range statement: A description of the activities required to demonstrate competencies within the National Vocational Qualification/Scottish Vocational Qualification (*q.v.*) system.

ranine (rā'nīn): Relating to a ranula or to the lower surface of the tongue.

ranula (ran'ū-la): A retention cyst that forms underneath the tongue on either side of the frenum due to obstruction of the duct of a sublingual or mucous gland; contains stringy, mucoid material; surgery is usually needed. — ranular, adj.

Ranvier's nodes: Regularly spaced constrictions in myelinated nerve fibres; at these points the myelin sheath is absent.

rape (rāp): Unlawful sexual abuse or assault of one person by another, without consent, and obtained by force or deception; legally considered an act of violence.

rape trauma syndrome: A group of symptoms that sometimes develops in women (or men) who have been raped. Symptoms that develop immediately include fear, weeping, insomnia, terrifying dreams, nausea, loss of appetite, depression, suicidal behaviour; those that develop during the adjustment period include fears and phobias, nightmares, refusal to socialize, complete change in lifestyle.

raphe (rā'fē): A seam, suture, ridge, or crease marking the line of fusion of two similar

parts, *e.g.*, the median furrow on the dorsal surface of the tongue.

rapid eye movements: Movements of the eye that occur in certain phases of the sleep cycle. REM SLEEP, the period of deep normal sleep when one also has dreams which are thought to be the cause of rapid eye movements. See also NON-RAPID EYE MOVEMENTS.

rapport (ra-paw'r'): A relation characterized by harmony and accord. In psychiatry, a conscious feeling of accord, trust, confidence, and responsiveness to another, particularly the therapist, with willingness to cooperate. Cf. TRANSFERENCE.

rapture of the deep: A psychotic experience of deep sea divers, caused by sensory deprivation and disorientation.

raptus (rap'tus): 1. A sudden violent attack; may be physical, as a haemorrhage; or psychological, as an attack of intense nervousness. 2. Rape.

rarefaction (rar-e-fak'shun): Becoming less dense or thinning, but not being reduced in volume, as occurs in some bone diseases. — rarefy, *v.*

rash: A localized or general temporary skin eruption, often a characteristic of certain infectious diseases. NETTLE R. urticaria (*q.v.*); SERUM R., one following injection of a serum, *e.g.*, antitoxin; due to hypersensitivity.

raspberry mark: A congenital haemangioma (*q.v.*).

rating scale: A measure of the specific value of a property which is necessary for the optimal or standard use of a piece of equipment.

ratio (rā'shi-ō): The relationship in degree or number between two things. ALBUMINGLOBULIN R., the R. between the albumin and globulin in the blood serum which is normally 1.5 to 3; when lower than 1, some pathological condition is indicated.

rational (rash'un-al): 1. Of sound mind; not delirious. 2. Reasonable. 3. In medicine, treatment that is based on reason or general principles rather than empiricism.

rationale (rash-un-al'): The underlying reason or explanation for a practice, opinion, or phenomenon.

rational emotive therapy: A form of psychotherapy in which the patient is helped and encouraged to change his attitudes, his past ways of solving problems, and his general functioning in society in order to develop a more suitable and satisfying behaviour.

rationalization (rash'un-al-ī-zā'shun): A mental process whereby a person explains an emotionally activated occurrence by substitut-

ing one that is more acceptable than the truth, both to himself and to others. The substitution must be plausible enough for self-deception and self-justification. In psychiatry, a defence mechanism used by the individual to justify a threat or event or make something unreasonable seem reasonable.

rattle: A rale or other sound heard on auscultation of the chest. **DEATH R.** a gurgling sound heard over the trachea in the dying; may also be heard as a respiratory sound.

rave (rāv): To speak incoherently, as in delirium; irrational speech.

raw: 1. Uncooked. 2. Not pasteurized (*q.v.*), as applied to milk.

ray: 1. A beam of light or other radiant energy. 2. A stream of particles from a radioactive substance. **ALPHA R.S.** streams of fast-moving positively charged particles emitted from a disintegrating radioactive isotope; they are actually the nuclei of atoms; **BETA R.S.** particles emitted from radioactive isotopes as streams of electrons; their penetrating power is greater than that of alpha rays; **DIATHERMY R.S.** produced by an oscillating electric current; used to produce heat in the deeper body tissues; **GAMMA R.S.** electromagnetic radiation similar to x-rays but of greater penetrating power; **INFRA-RED R.S.** long invisible rays beyond the red end of the visible spectrum; they emanate from a surface heated to 300–800°C, penetrate the skin and are felt as heat; hence used therapeutically to produce heat in the tissues; **ROENTGEN R.S.**, see under **X-RAY**; **ULTRAVIOLET R.S.**, the invisible rays beyond the violet rays of the spectrum; see **ULTRAVIOLET**.

Raynaud: R.'S DISEASE idiopathic paresthesia, a common vasospastic disorder; characterized by bilateral paroxysmal spasm of the digital arteries producing severe hand-finger pain, numbness, tingling, and pallor of fingers or toes, or both, which become red as circulation returns; repeated attacks may result in osteoporosis of the fingers and toes, atrophy of the nails, and occasionally gangrene. Primarily a disease of young women who are under pressure; is brought on by emotion, any exposure to cold, even eating cold foods, or shock; R.'S PHENOMENON the occasional spasm of the digital arteries causing paleness and numbness of the fingers and toes. [Maurice Raynaud, French physician 1834–1881.]

RCTs: Abbreviation for randomized controlled trials (*q.v.*).

re-: Prefix denoting: 1. Again. 2. Back, backward.

react (rē-akt'): 1. To respond to a stimulus in a particular way. 2. To undergo a chemical reaction. 3. To tend to move toward a prior condition. 4. To exert a counteracting or reciprocal influence.

reaction (rē-ak'shun): 1. Response to stimulation. 2. Result of a test to determine acidity or alkalinity of a solution; usually expressed as pH. 3. The interaction of two or more different types of molecules with the production of a new type of molecule. **ADVERSE R.** an unpleasant or harmful physiological or psychological R. to a drug or treatment; **ALLERGIC R.** (see **SENSITIZATION**) is a hypersensitivity to certain proteins with which the patient is brought into contact through the medium of his skin, or his digestive tract or respiratory tract, resulting in eczema, urticaria, hay fever, etc. Inheritance and emotion contribute to the allergic tendency. The basis of the condition is probably a local antigen-antibody R.; **ANAPHYLACTIC R.**, R. that occurs following the administration of a substance to which the individual has become sensitized; **DELAYED R.**, a R. occurring after more than the usual reaction time; **IDIOSYNCRATIC R.** an unexpected, unusual R.; in pharmacotherapy, the opposite R. from what was expected; **IMMUNE R.**, a R. that indicates the presence of antibodies and probable high resistance to a specific infection; **R. TIME** the time interval between the application of a stimulus and the response to it; **TRANSFUSION R.**, R. that occurs following transfusion of incompatible blood.

reactive (rē-ak'-tiv): 1. Readily responsive to a stimulus. 2. Occurring as a result of stress or emotional upset. **R. DEPRESSION** an emotional state characterized by a strong feeling of sadness and depression of spirit, usually occurring following an external incident or emotional situation, and is relieved when the incident or situation is removed or understood.

reactivity (rē-ak-tiv'i-ti): The property of reacting or the state of being reactive.

reactor (rē-ak'tor): In medicine, refers to a person who reacts positively to a foreign substance, particularly one who is sensitive to tuberculin (*q.v.*). In physics, an apparatus that houses a device that can initiate and control a nuclear fission chain reaction to generate heat or produce radiation.

Read coding system (rēd): A hierarchically arranged thesaurus, providing a numerical coding system for clinical conditions. It is being superseded by the Systemized Nomenclature of Medicine (*q.v.*) terms.

Read method: A method of preparing for childbirth introduced by Dr Grantly Dick-Read. The woman learns exercises that foster relaxation and conditioning of the muscles, and slow diaphragmatic breathing; the emphasis is on fearlessness.

reagent (rē-ā'jent): An agent capable of producing a chemical change; when added to a complex solution it may determine the presence or absence of certain substances.

reagin (rē-ā'jin): An antibody associated with allergic reactions; present in the serum of hypersensitive people. It is responsible for the liberation of histamines and other substances that cause symptoms of hay fever and asthma. — reagenic, adj.

reality (rē-al'-i-ti): The aggregate of all things that have an objective existence; not imaginary, fictitious, or pretended. R. ORIENTATION the performance of measures to increase one's awareness of time, place, and person; R. PRINCIPLE, in psychoanalytical theory, awareness that the gratification of instinctual wishes is modified by the inescapable external demands of the physical environment in a way that meets these demands but also allows for gratification at a more appropriate time; R. TESTING a function of the ego in which certain actions are explored and their outcomes analysed so that when the stimulus to act in a given fashion occurs, the individual will know what outcome to expect.

reality orientation: A treatment approach for patients with Alzheimer's disease, based upon the belief that continual, repetitive reminders will keep the patient stimulated and lead to an increase in orientation. In order for this to be effective, reorienting techniques must be applied consistently by all of the people who come into contact with the patient, twenty-four hours a day.

rebore (rē-bor'): Boring out or recanalizing.

rebound phenomenon: The reaction that occurs when a limb that is being subjected to resistance moves in the intended direction and then, when the resistance is removed, rebounds in the opposite direction; spastic limbs respond with exaggerated rebound, whereas in patients with cerebellar disturbances, no rebound occurs.

rebreathing bag: A bag attached to a mask and which is used to pump air or an anaesthetic gas into the patient's lung when needed; it serves as an accessory source of anaesthetic gases during an operation.

recalcitrant (rē-kal'si-trant): Refractory. Describes medical conditions that are resistant to treatment.

recall (rē'kawl): The process of bringing a past mental image or event into consciousness; to remember. R. is one phase of memory, the other two being memorization and retention.

recanalization (rē'kan-a-lī-zā'shun): Re-establishment of patency of (1) a blood vessel, or (2) a bodily tube, *e.g.*, the vas deferens.

recapitulation theory: The theory that an embryo goes through the same stages in its development that the species did in developing from lower to higher forms of life.

reception screening: A comprehensive mental and physical health screen of all new prisoners, undertaken by a health-care worker in a prison.

receptor (ri-sep'tor): Sensory afferent nerve ending capable of receiving and transmitting stimuli. ALPHA and BETA R.S are located on cell surfaces throughout the body; they react to stimulation by acetylcholine, noradrenaline, and adrenaline; ALPHA-1 R.S, when stimulated, cause peripheral vasoconstriction. ALPHA-2 R.S respond to stimulation by inhibiting release of noradrenaline at the neuron terminal; ALPHA-ADRENERGIC R. any of the adrenergic parts of the receptor of a stimulus that react to certain chemical substances, adrenaline in particular, by causing constriction of peripheral vessels of the skin, mucosa, intestine, and kidney, and contraction of the pupil and pilomotor muscles; the opposite of BETA-ADRENERGIC R.; also called alpha receptor; BETA-1 R.S, when stimulated, cause an increase in heart rate and heart contractility, and facilitate atrioventricular conduction; BETA-2 R.S when stimulated, cause relaxation of smooth muscle which results in peripheral and coronary vasodilatation.

recess (ri-ses', rē'ses): A small empty space, depression, or cavity.

recession (ri-sesh'un): The gradual withdrawal of a part or a structure from its normal position.

recessive (ri-ses'iv): Receding; having a tendency to disappear. R. GENE one of a gene pair that determines the character trait in an individual only if the other member of the pair is also recessive; R. TRAIT an inherited characteristic that remains latent when paired with a dominant trait in selective mating. See MENDEL'S LAW. Opp. to dominant.

recidivation (ri-sid-i-vā'shun): Relapse of a disease or recurrence of a symptom; or the repe-

tion of a crime or offence; or a tendency to relapse into a previous condition, or; more particularly, the recurrence of an undesirable behaviour pattern.

recidivist (ri-sid'i-vist): A person who is inclined toward recidivation.

recipe (res'i-pi): 1. A prescription. 2. A word at the head of a written prescription meaning *take*; usually represented by R_x .

recipient (ri-sip'i-ent): In medicine, one who receives; usually refers to the person who receives blood in a transfusion. UNIVERSAL R., one who can receive any type of blood in a transfusion without harmful effects.

Recommended Dietary Allowance: Refers to the recommended daily amounts of specific nutrients and/or vitamins and minerals required to maintain health.

recompression (rē-kom-presh'un): The gradual return to conditions of normal pressure after exposure to diminished atmospheric pressure, a procedure used in treating deep sea divers or caisson workers to prevent decompression sickness after their return to the surface.

reconstructive surgery: Surgery to correct or repair a defect, congenital or acquired.

record keeping: Maintaining a collection of information about patients and clients. This is an integral component of professional practice, a mark of safe and skilled practitioners. Records should be written in terms that others can understand and be signed. Patients and clients have a right of access to records held about them. See DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998.

recovery room: A special room where patients are kept until they recover from anaesthesia. It is usually located near the operating suite so that if emergency care is needed it can be given quickly by the anaesthetist or surgeon. Specially trained nurses are present at all times to observe the patients and care for them.

recreation therapy: The use of such recreational activities as games, music, or theatre to provide relaxation for physically or mentally handicapped individuals, to improve their quality of life, and to help prepare them to re-enter the community following disease or injury.

recrement (rek're-ment): A secretion that performs its function and then is reabsorbed into the blood, *e.g.*, saliva, bile. — *recrementitious*, adj.

recrudescence (rē-kroo-des'ens): The return of symptoms, or of a pathological state, after a period of apparent improvement.

rectal (rek'tal): Pertaining to the rectum. R. ANAESTHESIA introduction of an anaesthetic into

the rectum to produce local anaesthesia, used particularly in labour. R. FEEDING, introduction of fluid nutrients into the rectum. R. REFLEX, the normal reflex that produces the desire to evacuate the rectum. R. TUBE, a rubber tube used to introduce substances into the rectum or to assist in the expulsion of flatus.

rectalgia (rek-tal'ji-a): Proctalgia (*q.v.*).

rectectomy (rek-tek'to-mi): Excision of the rectum.

rectitis (rek-tī'tis): Inflammation of the rectum; proctitis.

rect-, recto-: Combining forms denoting: 1. Relationship to the rectum. 2. Straight. See also words beginning PROCT-, PROCTO-.

rectoabdominal (rek'tō-ab-dom'i-nal): Relating to the rectum and the abdomen, particularly to a rectal examination in which one hand of the examiner is placed firmly on the abdominal wall while one (or more) finger(s) of the other hand is inserted into the rectum.

rectoanal (rek'tō-ā-nal): Relating to the rectum and the anus.

rectocele (rek'tō-sēl): Hernial protrusion of anterior wall of the rectum through the vagina following injury to the posterior wall; may occur during childbirth or, in later life, by weakening of the muscles of the pelvic floor; usually repaired by posterior colporrhaphy. Proctocele.

rectoclysis (rek-tok'li-sis): Proctoclysis.

rectocolitis (rek'tō-ko-lī'tis): Inflammation of the rectum and colon. Proctocolitis.

rectoperineal (rek'tō-per-i-nē'al): Relating to the rectum and the perineum.

rectoperineorrhaphy (rek'tō-per-i-nē-or'a-fi): Repair of the rectal wall and the perineum.

rectopexy (rek'tō-pek-si): Surgical fixation of a prolapsed rectum.

rectoscope (rek'to-skōp): An instrument for examining the rectum. Proctoscope. See ENDOSCOPE. — *rectoscopic*, adj.

rectosigmoid (rek-tō-sig'moyd): The rectum and sigmoid portion of the colon. Also descriptive of the place where the rectum and the sigmoid join.

rectosigmoidectomy (rek'tō-sig-moy-dek'to-mi): Surgical removal of the rectum and sigmoid colon.

rectostenosis (rek'tō-ste-nō'sis): A narrowing or stricture of the rectum. Proctostenosis.

rectostomy (rek-tos'to-mi): The surgical creation of a permanent opening into the rectum to relieve stricture. Proctostomy.

rectourethral (rek-tō-ū-rē'thral): Relating to the rectum and the urethra. R. FISTULA a fistula between the rectum and the urethra.

rectouterine (rek-tō-ū'ter-in): Relating to the rectum and uterus.

rectovaginal (rek-tō-vaj-īn'al): Relating to rectum and vagina. R. FISTULA, one between the rectum and vagina.

rectovascular (rek-tō-ves'ī-kal): Relating to the rectum and urinary bladder. R. FISTULA, one between the rectum and the bladder; R. POUCH the fold of peritoneum that extends between the urinary bladder and the rectum in the male.

rectovulvar (rek-tō-vul'var): Relating to the rectum and the vulva. R. FISTULA a fistula between the rectum and the vulva.

rectum (rek'tum): The lower part of the large intestine between the sigmoid colon and anal canal. — rectal, adj.; rectally, adv.

rectus (rek'tus): Straight; in anatomy, a straight muscle. R. ABDOMINIS MUSCLE one of a pair of straight muscles that extend from the pubis to the xiphoid process; they compress the abdomen and assist to flex the trunk; R. FEMORIS MUSCLE the large muscle on the front of the thigh; it flexes the thigh and extends the leg; R. MUSCLES OF THE EYE, include the superior, inferior, lateral and medial; they control the movements of the eyeball.

recumbent (ri-kum'bent): Lying down or reclining. — recumbency, n.

recuperate (rē-kū'per-āt): To regain health or strength. — recuperation, n.

recurrent (ri-kur'ent): Occurring again at intervals after a period of quiescence or abatement, e.g., fever, haemorrhage.

recurvature (rē-kur'va-chur): A backward curvature or bending.

red: R. BLOOD CELL, erythrocyte (*q.v.*); R. BONE MARROW see BONE MARROW; R. NUCLEUS a large distinctive oval nucleus in the upper part of the midbrain; it receives fibres from the cerebellum and projects fibres to the brain stem, spinal cord, and thalamus.

Red Cross: 1. Abbreviation for a local, national, or the International Red Cross Society. 2. The insignia adopted by the various Red Cross Societies; consists of a red Geneva cross on a white ground. 3. A sign of neutrality used for protection of the sick and wounded and those caring for them in time of war. See INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

reduce (ri-dūs'): 1. To restore something to its normal place or position, as in hernia, fracture or dislocation. 2. In chemistry, to remove oxygen from a chemical substance. 3. To decrease in volume or size — reduction, n.; reducible, adj.

reductase (ri-duk'tās): Any enzyme that has a reducing action on a chemical compound; a hydrogenase.

reduction (ri-duk'shun): In chemistry, the removal of oxygen or addition of hydrogen to a compound. In medicine, the replacement of a part at its normal position in the body. CLOSED R., refers to reduction of a fracture by manipulation without making an incision; OPEN R., refers to reduction of a fracture after incision of the tissues over the site of the fracture.

reductionism (rē-duk'-shun-izm): The practice of describing a phenomenon (particularly one involving human thought and action) in terms of an apparently more 'basic' phenomenon, to which the first is then said to be equivalent; for example, the practice of describing organic processes in terms of the physico-chemical reactions that underlie them. It is supposed that reduction both explains, and also simplifies the phenomenon. However, reductionism is also used as a term of abuse for those theories that simplify too much, by reducing one phenomenon to another that is too basic to explain it.

Reed-Sternberg cell: An enlarged anaplastic reticuloendothelial cell with multiple hyperlobulated nuclei, characteristic of Hodgkin's disease but also seen in other conditions. Also called *Sternberg-Reed cell*; *Dorothy Reed's cell*; *Hodgkin's cell*; *giant cell*.

re-engineering: To design and construct a new an existing object or system.

re-epithelialization (rē'ep-i-thē'li-al-ī-zā'shun):

1. The regrowth of epithelial tissue over an area that has been denuded of it. 2. The surgical replacement of epithelial tissue over a denuded surface.

referred pain: Pain which is felt as occurring at a place distant from its origin, e.g., the pain felt in the arm during an attack of angina pectoris.

reflection (ri-flek'shun): 1. The turning back of a light ray from a surface that it does not penetrate. 2. A turning or bending back. 3. Deep continued thought on written or oral material, often a devotional act; meditation.

reflection in action: Contemplation that takes place whilst still engaged in the practice setting; the aim of such reflection is to immediately shape and modify practice through on-the-spot experimentation.

reflection on action: The retrospective contemplation of practice, usually away from the setting in which it took place, in order to identify best practice and areas for improvement.

reflective enquiry: Research that is predominantly concerned with the generation of informal theory and personal knowledge through the process of reflection on action.

reflective practice: The use of reflection in action (*q.v.*) or reflection on action (*q.v.*). The process has become increasingly important for practice-based professions; it is a valuable learning tool for the advancement of personal and professional knowledge and skills. See **CRITICAL INCIDENT**; **CRITICAL INCIDENT ANALYSIS**.

reflex (rē'fleks): In physiology, an unlearned, involuntary response to a stimulus. A R. ACTION is an involuntary response by the body or any of its parts to a stimulus; the testing of various reflexes provides information on the location and diagnosis of disorders involving the nervous system. ABDOMINAL R. contraction of the underlying muscles when the skin of the abdomen is stroked; ACCOMMODATION R. constriction of the pupils and convergence of the eyes for near vision; ACHILLES R. contraction of the calf muscles causing flexion of the foot when the Achilles tendon is stroked; BABINSKI'S R., movement of the great toe upward (dorsiflexion) instead of downward (plantar flexion) and fanning of other toes, on stroking the outer border of the sole of the foot. Occurs in young infants and in some cases of disease of the brain or spinal cord. Also called *Babinski's sign* and *Babinski's great toe sign*. [Joseph François Felix Babinski, French neurologist, 1857–1932.] BICEPS R. contraction of the biceps muscle when the biceps tendon is struck at the elbow; BLINK R. involuntary closing of both eyes when any stimulus is applied to the face; present in parkinsonism and in those with generalized brain disease, and sometimes in normal older persons; BRACHIORADIALIS R. contraction of the brachioradialis muscle when the lower end of the radius is tapped and the arm is held in supination at 45°; BRUDZINSKI'S R., see **BRUDZINSKI'S SIGN**; CALORIC R. see **CALORIC TEST**; CAROTID R. slowing of the heart rate and decreased blood pressure when pressure is applied to the carotid sinus; CHADDOCK R. extension of the great toe when a stimulus is applied to the area below the external malleolus; an indication of lesion in the pyramidal tract; CHEMICAL R., one initiated by hormones or other chemicals in the blood; CILIARY R. the normal pupillary constriction that occurs in accommodation; CILIOSPINAL R. ipsilateral dilatation of the pupil when a painful stimulus is applied to the skin of the neck; usually present in co-

matose patients when there is no lesion in the brain stem; CONDITIONED R., one that is not inborn but developed through training and repeated association with a definite stimulus; CONJUNCTIVAL R. involuntary closure of the eyelids when the conjunctiva is touched; CORNEAL R. the reaction of blinking when the cornea is touched lightly; COUGH R. clearing of the air passageways of foreign material; results from impulses carried to the medulla by the vagus nerve; CREMASTERIC R., reaction of the ipsilateral testis when the skin on the inner surface of the thigh is stimulated; DANCE OF DANCING R. stepping R.; DEEP R., a R. elicited by irritating a deep structure; DOLL'S EYE R. the involuntary turning of the eyes upward or downward with flexion and extension of the head; GAG R. contraction of the constrictor muscle of the pharynx when the back of the pharynx is touched; GALANT'S R., seen in normal infants during the first months of life; running a finger parallel to the spine from the last rib to the iliac crest will cause the infant to flex its trunk toward the side that is stimulated; GASTROCOLIC R. an increase in intestinal and colic peristalsis following entrance of food into the empty stomach; GLUTEAL R. contraction of the muscles of the buttock when the skin over the area is stroked; GORDON R. extension of the thumb and index finger or all the fingers on pressure on the pisiform bone of the wrist; also called *finger phenomenon*; GRASP R. contraction of the flexor muscles and resistance to attempts to remove an object placed in the hand of a person with a prefrontal lesion; HERING-BREUER R. a nervous mechanism by which afferent vagal impulses inhibit the inspiratory centre in the brain; HIRSCHBERG'S R. adduction of the foot when the sole under the great toe is tickled; ILEOGASTRIC R. the inhibition of gastric motility when the ileum becomes distended; JAW JERK R. a quick closure of the jaws when the chin of a person whose mouth is open is tapped; implies damage to the cerebrum in the area that controls motor activity of the fifth cranial nerve (trigeminal); KNEE-JERK R. see **patellar R.**; MONOSYNAPTIC R., any R. that involves only one synapse and no internuncial neurons, *e.g.*, the patellar R.; MORO R., the startle R., tested for in evaluating newborn's status; when a sudden noise is made the infant will throw out its arms and legs and bring them together as if to hold on. Also called the *Moro embrace R.*; NECK-RIGHTING R., when an infant's head is forcibly

turned to one side the whole body tries to turn to that side; this R. disappears at about one year of age; OCULOCARDIAC R. slowing of the rhythm of the heartbeat following pressure on the eyes or on the carotid sinus; a slowing of 5 to 13 beats per minute is considered the normal range; OCULOCEPHALIC R. the doll's eye R.; OPPENHEIMER'S R. dorsiflexion of the great toe on downward stroking of the medial surface of the tibia; PALMAR R. flexion of the fingers when the palm is tickled; PALMOMENTAL R. contraction of the mentalis muscle when a non-painful stimulus is applied to the palm; seen in patients with cerebral arteriosclerosis; PATELLAR R. a forward jerk that occurs when the tendon immediately below the patella is struck; also called the knee-jerk R.; PLANTAR R. the involuntary movement of the toes when the sole of the foot is stroked; POSTURAL R. the ability to maintain body alignment against the effects of gravity; PUPILLARY R. change in size of the pupil in response to a stimulus such as light; QUADRICEPS R. patellar R.; RIGHTING R. the ability to assume the optimal position when there has been a departure from it, either voluntary or involuntary; ROOTING R., occurs when a newborn's cheek is touched lightly; the infant turns its head toward the direction of the touch and purses its lips in preparation for sucking; STEPPING R. the stepping or dancing movement made by an infant when held upright with its feet on a flat surface; SUCKING R. sucking movements of the lips, tongue, and jaw in response to contact of the lips with an object; normal in infants; SUPERFICIAL R., one that can be elicited by applying a stimulus such as stroking or scratching to the skin; SWALLOWING R. the act of swallowing when the palate, fauces, or posterior pharyngeal wall are touched; TENDON R. contraction of a stretched muscle when the skin over it is tapped lightly; includes the Achilles, biceps, patellar, and triceps reflexes; TONIC NECK R., a R. in the newborn when the infant, lying on its back with its head forcibly turned, extends the ipsilateral arm and sometimes the leg, in the direction the head is turned, while the contralateral limbs become flexed; this R. disappears after about four months; TRICEPS R. extension of the forearm when the triceps tendon is tapped at the elbow while the arm hangs loosely at right angles to the side; VOMITING R. contraction of the abdominal muscles, relaxation of the cardiac sphincter of the stomach and of the throat muscles, elicited by a

variety of stimuli, usually applied to the fauces.

reflex arc (rē'fleks ark): A sensory neuron, a connective neuron, and a motor neuron which, acting together, constitute the path that an impulse travels from a receptor to an effector organ or gland.

reflexive action research: Research that aims to bring about change in practice as part of the research itself, and which subsequently modifies the research process.

reflexivity (rē-fleks-iv'-i-ti): Critically examining the research process, taking into consideration the subjectivity and experiences of the researcher in addition to social, political, and ethical contexts of the study.

reflexogenic (rē-flek-sō-jen'ik): Producing, increasing, or increasing the tendency to reflex action.

reflexograph (rē-flek'sō-graf): A device for recording a reflex action.

reflexology (rē-flek-sol'o-ji): A complementary therapy practising diagnostic foot massage, according to a theory that all the body's organs correspond to pressure points in the feet.

reflux (rē'fluks): Backward flow or return of a fluid; regurgitation. GASTROESOPHAGEAL R., often due to an incompetent gastroesophageal sphincter and associated with hiatus hernia; characterized by heartburn, regurgitation, anterior chest pain; is aggravated by spicy foods, aspirin, chocolate; complications include oesophageal ulcer, haemorrhage, and perforation; HEPATOJUGULAR R. distension of the jugular vein and elevation of blood pressure resulting from pressure on the liver; can be observed in the jugular vein and measured in the arm veins; VESICoureTERAL R. the passage of urine from the bladder back into the ureter. See also PEPTIC OESOPHAGITIS under OESOPHAGITIS.

refraction (ri-frak'shun): 1. The bending of light rays as they pass through media of different densities. In normal vision, the light rays are so bent that they meet on the retina. 2. The process of measuring errors of refraction in the eyes and correcting them by eyeglass lenses. — refractive, adj.; refract, v.

refractometry (rē-frak-tom'e-tri): In ophthalmology, the use of a refractometer to measure refractive errors in the eye.

refractory (ri-frak'tō-ri): 1. Stubborn, unmanageable, rebellious; resistant to treatment. 2. Unable to accept a stimulus. ABSOLUTE R. PERIOD the time immediately after a nerve has

been stimulated when the cells are depolarized and the nerve cannot respond to another stimulus, regardless of its strength; **RELATIVE R. PERIOD**, the time period during which a neuron can respond to a stimulus if the stimulus is strong enough.

refracture (rē-fra'k'chur): The operation of rebreaking a bone that has united improperly after fracture.

refrigerant (ri-frij'er-ant): 1. Allaying heat or fever. 2. An agent that reduces fever and produces a feeling of coolness.

refrigeration (ri-frij'er-ā'shun): Cooling of the body or any part of it, to reduce basal metabolism or to render a part insensitive, as is needed for minor surgery. See **HIBERNATION**, **HYPOTHERMIA**.

refugee (ref-ū-jē'): A person who, for political, racial, or ideological reasons, or as a result of such crises as famine or disaster, has been forced to flee his or her home or home country.

refusion (re-fū'zhun): The return of blood to the circulation after it has been temporarily removed from the body or cut off from a part.

regeneration (rē-jen'er-ā'shun): The natural renewal or repair of tissue after injury. — regenerate, v.

regimen (rej'i-men): A systematic plan of diet, medication, and activities designed to restore or maintain a certain state of health or keep a certain condition under control.

region (rē'jun): In anatomy, a limited area of the surface of the body, e.g. the **ABDOMINAL R. S** include the epigastric, right and left hypochondriac, umbilical, right and left lumbar, hypogastric, right and left iliac.

registrar (re-jis'trar'): 1. An experienced doctor working in a British hospital and training to be a specialist; 2. An official recorder and keeper of records.

registration: In nursing, a process by which qualified individuals are listed on an official register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. **R. OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS** a legal requirement in the United Kingdom that all births and deaths are recorded with a Central Register Office. Births should be recorded within six weeks in England and Wales and within 21 days in Scotland. It is illegal to dispose of a dead person without a death certificate to indicate that the death has been officially registered.

regression (ri-gresh'un): 1. A return to a former state or condition. 2. The subsidence or abatement of symptoms or of a disease condition. 3.

In psychiatry, a turning back to an earlier more comfortable stage of development in order to escape a frustrating or unbearable situation; occurs in dementia, especially senile dementia. — regressive, adj.; regress, v.

regulation (reg-ū-lā'-shun): The act of regulating, or the state of being regulated.

regurgitant (ri-gur'ji-tant): Flowing back or in the opposite direction from normal.

regurgitation (ri-gur-ji-tā'shun): Backward flow, as of stomach contents into or through the mouth, or of blood into the heart or between the chambers of the heart when the valves do not function properly, as in **MITRAL R.**, in which blood flows back from the left ventricle into the left atrium, or in **TRICUSPID R.**, in which blood flows back from the right ventricle into the right atrium. — regurgitation, adj.; regurgitate, v.

rehabilitation (rē-ha-bil-i-tā'shun): The restoration of an individual's ability to function as efficiently and normally as his condition will permit following injury, illness, or accident. It involves reeducation and retraining of those who have become partially or wholly incapacitated by such conditions as blindness, deafness, heart disease, amputation, paralysis, etc. **R. ENGINEERING** the construction and use of a great number of devices used to restore or replace motor and sensory functions; **R. MEDICINE** all aspects of medicine involved in rehabilitative programmes. — rehabilitate, v.

rehabilitation programme: 1. The retraining of a person following imprisonment or illness. 2. The restoration of industry, the economy, etc., after a war.

rehydration (re-hi-drā'shun): The restoration of water or fluid to a substance that has been dehydrated. — rehydrate, v.

Reichian therapy (rik' -i-an): A type of psychotherapy characterized by emphasis on the necessity of full expression of the sexual libido as a cure for neurosis; introduced by Wilhelm Reich, German psychoanalyst [1897–1957].

Reil's island (rīls): See **INSULA**.

reimplantation (rē'im-plan-tā'shun): The replacement into its former position of a body part that has been removed.

reinfection (rē'in-fek'shun): A secondary infection, during convalescence or after recovery from a previous infection by the same or a very similar organism.

reinforcement (rē'in-fors'ment): Increasing the cumulative effect of something by strengthening it through repetition, addition, or similar action. In psychology, the strengthening of a

response by offering a reward or by withholding punishment, an important process in operant conditioning. — reinforce, v.

reinfusion (rē'in-fū'zhun): The reinjection of blood serum, or cerebrospinal fluid.

reinnervation (rē'-in-er-vā'shun): The operation of restoring the nerve supply of an organ or muscle by grafting in a living nerve when the motor nerve supply has been lost.

reinoculation (rē'in-ok-ū-lā'shun): A second inoculation with the same virus or infection.

Reiter's syndrome: An arthritis-like syndrome with urethritis, conjunctivitis, and cutaneous lesions; of unknown origin; sometimes mistaken for acute gonorrhoeal arthritis. Likely to be chronic and to recur. Occurs most often in males. Also called *Reiter's disease*.

rejection (rē-jek'shun): 1. An immune reaction against a grafted tissue or organ. 2. In psychology, a denial; a refusal to accept, recognize, or grant.

relapse (rē-laps'): The return of a disease or of serious symptoms after the disease has apparently been overcome.

relapsing fever: Louse-borne or tick-borne infection caused by spirochaetes of genus *Borrelia*. Prevalent in many parts of the world. Characterized by a febrile period of a week or so, with apparent recovery, followed by a further bout of high-fever.

relaxant (rē-lak'sant): 1. Causing relaxation. 2. An agent that produces relaxation or reduction of tension.

relaxin (rē-lak'sin): A factor secreted by certain pregnant animals and also prepared pharmaceutically for treatment of dysmenorrhoea and premature labour and to facilitate labour at term; it produces relaxation of the symphysis pubis and dilatation of the uterine cervix.

reliability (re-li-a-bil'-i-ti): 1. The quality of being trustworthy and dependable. 2. In research, the likelihood of producing the same findings using the same research conditions over a period of time or with different researchers.

REM: Abbreviation for rapid eye movements (*q.v.*).

rem: The amount of ionizing radiation that will have the same effect as 1 rad or gray of x-ray radiation.

remedial (re-mē'di-al): Having curative properties.

remedy (rem'e-di): Any agent that prevents, cures, or alleviates a disease or its symptoms.

reminiscence (rem-i-nis'-ens): The act, process, or fact of remembering or recollecting; some-

times specifically the act of recovering knowledge by mental effort. R. THERAPY a treatment for older people or those with dementia, using objects from the past, such as photographs, food, and clothes, to trigger discussion and reflection.

remission (ri-mish'un): 1. Lessening or abatement of the symptoms of a disease. 2. A period of temporary abatement of the symptoms of a disease, *e.g.*, as in a fever.

remittent (ri-mit'ent): Characterized by periodic intervals of abatement of symptoms of a pathological condition.

ren-, reni-, reno-: Combining forms denoting the kidney.

renal (rē'nal): Relating to the kidney. R. ASTHMA, hyperventilation of the lung occurring sometimes during uraemia, as a result of acidosis; R. CALCULUS a stone in the kidney; R. COLIC severe pain in the lower back, radiating down the groin and sometimes the leg; caused by a calculus in the kidney or ureter; R. DIALYSIS, see HAEMODIALYSIS; R. DWARFISM dwarfism due to renal failure; R. FAILURE, failure of the kidney to perform its functions; chronic failure is usually irreversible; R. FUNCTION TESTS FUNCTION TESTS various tests for measuring renal function, all requiring careful collection of urine specimens; some of those in common use are: para-aminohippuric acid clearance test for measuring renal blood flow; creatinine clearance test for measuring glomerular filtration rate; ammonium chloride test for measuring tubular ability to excrete hydrogen ions; urinary concentration and dilution tests for measuring tubular function; R. GLYCOSURIA, that which occurs in patients with normal blood sugar and lowered renal threshold for sugar; R. HAEMANGIOPERICYTOMA a vascular neoplasm of the kidney in which the capillaries are often obscured by the growing tumour, which may be benign or malignant; R. HYPERTENSION systemic arterial hypertension resulting from kidney disease; R. INSUFFICIENCY inability of the kidney to perform its functions properly; R. MEDULLA the inner darker part of the kidney, composed of the renal pyramids; R. OSTEODYSTROPHY a chronic condition with onset in childhood, due to renal insufficiency, marked by increased resorption of bone with osteomalacia and osteoporosis; also called renal rickets; R. SHUTDOWN, R. failure; R. SYSTEM consists of the two kidneys, two ureters, bladder, urethra, renal arteries and veins; R. THRESHOLD the degree of concentration of a substance in the urine at which the

kidney begins to excrete it; R. TUBULAR ACIDOSIS a hereditary disorder characterized by inability to produce an acid urine; it occurs chiefly in males in whom it is the result of incomplete reabsorption of bicarbonate in the proximal tubule; R. URAEMIA, uraemia that follows kidney disease in contrast to that caused by a circulatory disorder.

Rendu-Weber-Osler disease: Hereditary haemorrhagic telangiectasia; see under TELANGIECTASIA.

renin (rĕ'nin): A protein substance manufactured in the kidney that acts like an enzyme; when secreted into the bloodstream it acts as a powerful vasoconstrictor and raises the blood pressure; too high a level in the bloodstream will result in blood pressure that is higher than normal.

renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system: A system by which the kidneys control blood pressure. Renin, released by the kidney when blood pressure falls, combined with a plasma protein to form angiotensin I, then angiotensin II which is a potent vasoconstrictor that stimulates the production of aldosterone by the kidney cortex, which, in turn, promotes the reabsorption of sodium by the kidney tubules and results in the release of potassium and an increase in blood volume. Also called renin-angiotensin system.

renin-sodium profile test: Measures the sodium content in a 24-hour urine specimen during which time salt is restricted, and compares it with the renin content of the blood; useful in planning medical treatment of hypertension.

rennet (ren'et): An extract made of calf's stomach; contains rennin. Used in preparing certain foods and in cheese making.

rennin (ren'-in): Gastric enzyme that curdles milk.

renninogen (ren-in'ō-jen): The inactive precursor of rennin.

renogenic (rĕ-nō-jen'ik): Originating or arising in the kidney.

renogram (rĕ'nō-gram): The roentgenographic record showing the rate at which kidneys remove an intravenously injected dose of a radioactive substance from the blood, and aid in evaluating renal function.

renography (rĕ-nog'ra-fi): Radiography of the kidney.

renomegaly (rĕ'nō-meg'a-li): Abnormal enlargement of the kidney.

renopathy (rĕ-nop'a'-thi): Any disease of the kidney.

renorenal (rĕ-nō-rĕ'nal): Relating to or affecting both kidneys. R. REFLEX the mechanism by which pathology in one kidney will affect the functioning of the other kidney.

renotrophic (rĕ'nō-trōf'ik): Having the ability to cause an increase in the size of the kidney.

renovascular (rĕ'nō-vas'kū-lar): Relating to the blood vessels of the kidney. R. HYPERTENSION see under HYPERTENSION.

reorganization (rĕ-or'ga-nī-zā'shun): Healing by the formation of new tissue similar to that lost through some morbid process.

Reovirus (rĕ'ō-vī'rus): A genus of RNA viruses closely related to the echoviruses (*q.v.*) and the arboviruses (*q.v.*); have been found in the respiratory and intestinal tracts of both healthy and sick people, but not yet associated with any specific disease.

Rep.: See REPETATUR.

repellant (ri-pe'l'ent): 1. Capable of reducing a swelling. 2. An agent that is capable of reducing a swelling or oedema. 3. Capable of repelling insects or mosquitoes. 4. An agent that repels insects or mosquitoes.

repertory grid (rep'-er-to-ri): An index, list, catalogue, or calendar. Psychologist George Kelly developed the grid as a way of measuring an individual's dichotomous (bipolar) constructs. Also known as *ratings repertory grid*.

repetatur (re-pe-tā'tūr): Let it be renewed; a Latin term used in prescription writing.

replacement (rĕ-plās'ment): 1. The infusion of donor blood to replace lost blood. 2. The substitution of a prosthetic device to replace a missing part or one that has been lost by amputation or accident.

replantation (ri-plan-tā'shun): Usually refers to the replacement of teeth that have been extracted or otherwise removed. — replant, *v.*

repletion (rĕ-plĕ'shun): The state of having ingested food and drink sufficient to produce satiation. Fullness.

replication (rep-li-kā'-shun): The creation of one or multiple facsimiles of an object or information; for example, cellular mitosis (*q.v.*), genetic replication.

repolarization (rĕ'pō-lar-ī-zā'shun): The process by which a depolarized cell membrane becomes repolarized by the restoration of a positive charge on the outer surface of the cell and a negative charge on the inner surface. — repolarize, *v.*

reposition (rĕ'pō-zish'un): To replace an organ or part to its normal site.

repression (rĕ-presh'un): In psychiatry, a defence mechanism whereby an individual un-

- consciously refuses to recognize the existence of urges, thoughts, memories, or feelings that are unacceptable or painful, or in conflict with the person's accepted moral principles; these experiences may not be recalled at will, but may emerge as the source of anxiety neuroses.
- reproduction** (rē-prō-duk'shun): The process of producing offspring, usually by sexual means, *i.e.*, the union of male and female sex cells; may also occur asexually, *i.e.*, by some means other than the union of male and female sex cells.
- reproductive** (rē'prō-duk'tiv): Pertinent to or associated with reproduction. R. SYSTEM, consists of the organs involved in reproduction. MALE R. SYSTEM, includes the testes, efferent ducts, epididymis, ductus deferens, ejaculatory duct, urethra, prostate gland, penis. FEMALE R. SYSTEM, includes ovaries, uterine tubes, uterus, vagina, vulva, and accessory glands.
- repulsion** (ri-pul'shun): The act of forcing or driving apart or away. Opp. of attraction.
- research** (re'serch): A search or investigation directed to the discovery of some fact by careful consideration or study of a subject; a course of critical or scientific enquiry.
- Research Assessment Exercise:** An investigative procedure, aimed at enabling the higher education funding bodies in the UK to distribute public funds for research selectively on the basis of quality. Institutions conducting the best research receive a larger proportion of the available grant, so that the infrastructure for the top level of research is protected and developed.
- research ethics:** The use and pursuit of new scientific knowledge with regard to widely held concepts of right and wrong.
- research governance** (guv'-er-nans): The enforcement of standards to ensure that research is carried out to a high quality and in a manner that the public can trust and support.
- research methods:** The techniques used to gather data in an investigation.
- resect** (rē-sekt'): To cut off or cut out part of a structure or organ.
- resection** (rē-sek'shun): Surgical removal of a section or segment of an organ or structure. SUBMUCOUS R. a surgical procedure involving incision of the nasal mucosa, removal of deflected nasal septum, and replacement of mucosa; TRANSURETHRAL R. removal of the prostate utilizing an instrument passed through the urethra; WEDGE R. the removal of a small wedge-shaped portion of tissue from an organ or part.
- resectoscope** (rē-sek'tō-skōp): A tubular instrument for dividing or removing small structures from a body cavity under direct vision, without making an incision other than that used for passing the instrument; used particularly when removing the prostate gland through the urethra.
- reserve** (ri-serv'): In physiology, something that is held back or stored for future use. ALKALINE R. the amount of alkaline available in the body to act as buffer to maintain the normal pH of the blood; CARDIAC R. the amount of work the heart is able to perform in increasing its output to meet increased physiologic demands.
- reservoir** (rez'er-vwar): A place where anything is collected or stored. R. OF INFECTION anything that provides a place for infectious agents to live and multiply and from which such agents can transmit an infection to a susceptible host; may be a person, animal, plant, water, soil, or inanimate organic matter.
- residential care:** Accommodation, staffed 24 hours a day, providing board and general personal care to the residents. Such premises are provided for vulnerable persons (e.g. children, the elderly, the physically disabled, and those with dependence on alcohol/drugs and those with learning disabilities or who are mentally ill) who require on-going care and supervision under circumstances where nursing care would normally be inappropriate.
- residual** (rē-zid'ū-al): Remaining. In physiology, refers to something remaining in a body cavity after normal expulsion has occurred. Also refers to a disability or deformity that remains after recovery from disease or operation, as a limp or a scar. R. AIR the air remaining in the lung after forced expiration; R. URINE urine remaining in the bladder after micturition; R. VOLUME the volume of air remaining in the lung after a maximal expiration.
- residue** (rez'i-dū): That which remains after removal of other substances. — residual, adj.
- resilient** (rē-zil'i-ent): Elastic. Having a tendency to return to previous shape, position, or condition. — resilience, n.
- res ipsa loquitur** (rās'-ip-sa-lok'-wi-toor): A legal term (Latin) that, literally, means 'the thing speaks for itself'. An important concept in malpractice lawsuits since it means specifically that the person or institution is being sued for an unfavourable or injurious injury or condition which could have been prevented if proper care had been used, *e.g.*, leaving a sponge in the patient's body after surgery.

resistance (ri-zis'tens): 1. Opposition to the passage of an electrical current. 2. Power of opposing an active force. 3. In psychology, the name given to the force that prevents repressed thoughts from reentering the consciousness. AIRWAY R., that usually offered to the airflow, mainly by the larynx, trachea, and bronchi; COGWHEEL R. stepwise jerking resistance felt by the examiner on passive stretching of muscle as in passive flexion and extension of the elbow; occurs in patients with parkinsonism; PERIPHERAL R., that offered by the capillaries to the blood passing through them; R. TO INFECTION the power of the body to withstand infection; see IMMUNITY.

resolution (rez-ō-loo'shun): The subsidence or spontaneous arrest of an inflammatory process without suppuration; the breaking down and removal or absorption of the products of inflammation, as seen, *e.g.*, in lobar pneumonia when the consolidation begins to liquefy.

resolve (rē-zolv'): To return to a normal state following a pathological condition, particularly when no suppuration has occurred.

resonance (rez'o-nans): The sound elicited when percussing a part that can vibrate freely, as for example, a hollow organ or a cavity containing air. VOCAL R. the reverberating note heard through the stethoscope on auscultation of the chest while the patient is speaking. — resonant, adj.

resorption (rē-sorp'shun): 1. The loss or disappearance of a body process or substance by absorption, lysis, or dissolution, *e.g.*, callus following bone fracture, the root of a tooth, or blood from a haematoma. 2. The act of reabsorbing or assimilating an excretion, blood clot, pus, or exudative material.

respiration (res-pi-rā'shun): 1. The release of energy via chemical reactions within cells. The physical and chemical process by which the cells and tissues of an organism receive the oxygen needed for carrying on their physiological processes and are relieved of the carbon dioxide resulting from these activities. 2. The movement of gases across the alveolar-capillary membrane in the lungs. 3. The act or function of breathing. ABDOMINAL R. the use of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles in breathing; APNEUSTIC R., characterized by long inspirations and short expirations; ARTIFICIAL R. artificial methods to restore respiration such as mouth-to-mouth breathing, or by the use of a device that intermittently inflates the lungs by forcing either oxygen or air into them; BIOT'S R. jerky, rapid, irregular breathing that

is interrupted by apnoea after four or five breaths; seen in meningitis and other conditions resulting from increased intracranial pressure which depresses the respiratory centre; CAVERNOUS R., R. characterized by prolonged hollow resonance; usually indicates a cavity in the lung; CHEYNE-STOKES R., a type of breathing in which the respirations gradually increase in depth until they reach a maximum, then gradually decrease in depth, finally ceasing for a period of time after which the cycle is repeated; results from retarded blood flow to the cerebrum and is often seen in congestive heart failure; the prognosis is ominous; COGWHEEL R. jerky, interrupted breathing; DIAPHRAGMATIC R., abdominal R.; EXTERNAL R. the exchange between the oxygen in the air in the lungs and the carbon dioxide in the blood in the walls of the capillaries in the alveoli; INTERNAL R. the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the tissues; KUSSMAUL R. the deep, sighing or gasping respirations characteristic of diabetic acidosis; PARADOXICAL R. inward movement of the chest wall during inspiration and outward movement during expiration; occurs when the lung or part of it is deflated; STERTOROUS R., noisy, rattling R. due to breathing with the mouth open which causes vibration of the soft palate; often occurs in comatose patients; SONOROUS or STRIDENT R., in which a high-pitched crowing sound is heard; usually indicates a partial airway obstruction; THORACIC R., R. accomplished chiefly by the intercostal muscles.

respirator (res'pi-rā-tor): 1. An appliance worn over the nose and mouth and designed to filter out irritating or poisonous substances such as gases, fumes, smoke, or dust, or to warm the air before it enters the respiratory tract. 2. An apparatus that artificially and rhythmically inflates and deflates the lungs as in normal breathing, when for any reason the natural nervous or muscular control of respiration is impaired. The apparatus may work on either positive or negative pressure or on electrical stimulation. CURASS R., a R. in the shape of a shell; is worn over the front of the trunk; used for patients who have some ability to breathe on their own; DRINKER R., used when it is necessary to supply artificial respiration for a long period of time. Consists of a metal tank that encloses the entire body except the head; commonly called 'iron lung'.

respiratory (res-pi'ra-tō-ri): Relating to respiration. R. ACIDOSIS see under ACIDOSIS; R. ALKALOSIS see under ALKALOSIS; R. CENTRE the

area in the medulla oblongata that regulates respiratory movements; it is stimulated by carbon dioxide in the blood and cerebrospinal fluid; R. FAILURE functional failure of the lungs and respiratory system to extract enough oxygen from the air to meet the body's needs; R. FUNCTION TESTS numerous available tests for vital capacity, forced vital capacity, forced expiratory volume, and maximal breathing capacity; R. SYSTEM, consists of the nose, pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi, lungs, and pleura; accessory structures include the diaphragm, pleural sac, and muscles of the chest wall; R. TRACT the group of tubular and cavernous structures that, functioning together, accomplish the exchange of gases between the ambient air and the blood, the principal organs involved being the nose, larynx, trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, and lungs.

respiratory distress syndrome: 1. R.D.S. OF THE NEWBORN, dyspnoea in the newly born; formerly called hyaline membrane disease. Occurs most often in preterm infants, and those born of diabetic mothers or by Caesarean section. A protein-lipid complex forms in the air spaces of the lungs on the first entry of air causing reduced amounts of lung surfactant (*q.v.*); without adequate surfactant to decrease the surface tension of the fluids lining the alveoli, air cannot pass and there is partial or complete collapse of the lung (atelectasis); the chest wall retreats with every breath, cyanosis develops, the respiration rate increases and a characteristic grunt is heard on expiration. 2. ADULT R.D.S., the name given to a severe obstructive lung disorder that results from the inflammatory response to such stresses as shock, chest injury, certain drug overdoses, or the effects of a viral, bacterial, chemical, or allergic agent; other causes include inhalation of smoke or corrosive chemicals, aspiration of stomach contents, or drowning. Symptoms are due to formation of a hyaline membrane in the alveoli which prevents formation of surfactant, causing suspension of oxygen-carbon dioxide exchange in the alveoli, which then become filled with exudate and fibrinous material. Symptoms include dyspnoea, hypoxia, interstitial oedema, and respiratory failure. Also called *acute respiratory distress syndrome*, *white lung*, *wet lung*, and *shock lung*.

respiratory sounds: May be (1) normal breath sounds heard on auscultation; often described as low-pitched, non-musical rustlings, or murmurs, or (2) adventitious sounds which

are usually indicative of a pathological condition; may be popping or clicking, squeaking, wheezing, whistling.

respiratory syncytial virus (res-pi-ra-tō-ri sin-sish' -i-al vīrus): A virus of the genus *Pneumovirus*; causes bronchitis and bronchopneumonia in children and minor upper respiratory infections in adults.

respiratory tract infection: Any infection affecting the respiratory tract; usually identified as (1) upper respiratory tract infections which include colds, tonsillitis, pharyngitis, sinusitis, rhinitis, and bronchial infections, and (2) lower respiratory tract infections which include those of the trachea and bronchi, and the various pneumonias.

respire (re-spīr'): To breathe.

respirometer (res-pi-rom' i-ter): An instrument used for studying and measuring the extent and character of the respiratory movements. *Spirometer*.

respite care: Regular relief for the families of patients who are being cared for at home; may be provided on daily or weekly basis.

respondeat superior: The doctrine that an employer is responsible for wrongful or negligent acts of his employees in certain situations, and that both can be sued.

respondents: 1. One who answers or replies, e.g. to a questionnaire. 2. One who defends a thesis against one or more opponents.

response (re-spons'): A reaction or movement following the application of a stimulus.

rest cure: Bed rest; usually combined with special diet, massage, physiotherapy, etc., to improve muscle tone and circulation and to promote relaxation; usually prescribed for individuals who are convalescing from debilitating illness or nervous system disorder.

rest pain: Pain that occurs mostly at night in patients with peripheral vascular disease; often severe and persistent; due to ischaemic neuritis. The peripheral pulses are absent and the toes may be red and tender; gangrene follows easily after injury.

restless legs syndrome: A condition characterized by weakness, coldness, and a disagreeable, prickly, creeping sensation in the muscles of the lower legs, and sometimes in the thighs, arms, and hands; begins after the patient has gone to bed and can be relieved only by walking; the cause is unknown but thought to be a vascular condition; occurs most often in those suffering from a neurosis and in the elderly.

restoration (res-to-rā'shun): Repair or reconstruction of a part, or a return to a previous state of health; strength; or consciousness.

restorative (re-stor'a-tiv): 1. An agent that serves to restore health, strength, or consciousness. 2. Promoting or tending to restore health, strength, or consciousness.

restraint (r-strānt'): Forcible restriction of the movements of an excessively restless, irrational, or psychotic patient in order to prevent self-injury or injury to others.

restrictive pulmonary disease: Any disease or disorder that interferes with lung expansion, e.g., pulmonary fibrosis.

Resusci-Anne: A training manikin that responds to external cardiac massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

resuscitation (rē-sus-i-tā'shun): The restoration to life of someone who is in cardiac or respiratory failure or shock. **CARDIOPULMONARY R.** bringing an individual back to consciousness by keeping the airway open, and by mouth-to-mouth breathing or external cardiac massage; **MOUTH-TO-MOUTH R.** a method of giving artificial respiration in which the rescuer forces air from his own lungs into the mouth of the victim; also called oral resuscitation; **OPEN-CHEST R.**, accomplished by massaging the heart in cases when the patient is in the operating room and the chest is already open, or when the patient is obese or barrel-chested, or in cases of tension pneumothorax or flail chest. — resuscitate, v.; resuscitative, adj.

resuscitator (ri-sus'i-tā-tor): An apparatus used to initiate breathing in persons whose respirations have ceased; consists of a mask that fits over the nose and mouth, a bag or reservoir for air, and a pump that may be electrically or hand-powered.

retardation (rē-tar-dā'shun): Delay; hindrance; slowing down; backwardness. **MENTAL R.** mental handicap (*q.v.*) lack of normal intellectual development, through impairment of learning, of social adjustment or of maturation. **PSYCHOMOTOR R.** abnormal slowness or lack of progress in both mental and physical development.

retch: To make a strong involuntary but ineffective effort to vomit.

retching: Straining at vomiting.

retention (ri-ten'shun): 1. Retaining information and facts in the mind; memory. 2. Accumulation of that which is normally excreted. 3. Keeping within the body that which normally belongs there, particularly food and liquid in the stomach. 4. Keeping in the body that which

should normally be discharged. **R. ENEMA**, one given with the intent that it can be retained in order to provide nourishment, medication, or anaesthesia. **R. OF URINE** accumulation of urine within the bladder.

reticular (re-tik'ū-lar): 1. Resembling a net. 2. Relating to the reticuloendothelium (*q.v.*) **R. ACTIVATING SYSTEM**, consists of the reticuloendothelium; maintains the person in the alert conscious state; lesions or chemical dysfunction of the system may produce lethargy, stupor, or coma.

reticulocyte (re-tik'ū-lō-sīt): A young circulating red blood cell, which still contains traces of the nucleus that was present in the cell when developing in the bone marrow. Increased numbers of reticulocytes in the blood are evidence of active blood regeneration. Reticulocytes normally constitute about 1% of the circulating red blood cells.

reticulocytopenia (re-tik'ū-lō-sī-tō-pē'ni-a): A decrease in the normal number of reticulocytes in the circulating blood.

reticulocytosis (re-tik'ū-lō-sī-tō'sis): A condition in which there is more than the normal number of reticulocytes in the peripheral blood, due either to irritation of the bone marrow or to excessive production; may occur after haemorrhage, in high altitude, and in treatment of some types of anaemia.

reticuloendothelioma (re-tik'ū-lō-en'dō-thē-lī-ō'ma): A tumour that is derived from reticuloendothelial tissue.

reticuloendotheliosis (re-tik'ū-lō-en'dō-thē-lī-ō'sis): A group of diseases affecting the reticuloendothelial system, including Hand-Schüller-Christian disease and Letterer-Siwe disease. Cause unknown; characterized by the proliferation of histiocytes; symptoms include otitis media, seborrhoeic rash, lymphadenopathy, enlarged liver and spleen, anaemia.

reticuloendothelium (re-tik'ū-lō-en'dō-thē'lī-um): A system of widely dispersed cells important in immunity because of their ability to remove bacteria, foreign particles, and cellular debris from the blood. Scattered throughout the body, these cells may be fixed or wandering, the fixed cells being found chiefly in connective tissue, thymus gland, lymph glands, bone marrow, liver, spleen, adrenals, hypophysis, and the microglia of the central nervous system, while the wandering cells are found in the blood. — reticuloendothelial, adj.

reticuloma (re-tik'ū-lō' ma): A tumour consisting chiefly of reticuloendothelial cells.

reticulosarcoma (re-tik'ū-lō-sar-ko'ma): Sarcoma composed of reticuloendothelial cells.

reticulosis (re-tik'ū-lō'-sis): Proliferative disease of the reticuloendothelial system. An ill-defined group of fatal conditions of unknown aetiology in which glandular and splenic enlargement are commonly found, and of which the three commonest members are Hodgkin's disease (lymphadenoma), lymphosarcoma, and reticulum cell sarcoma. See MYCOSIS. — reticulososes, pl.

reticulum (re-tik'ū-lum): A fine network of cells or of connective tissue fibres; the neuroglia.

retiform (ret'i-form): Resembling a net or network; reticular.

retina (ret'i-na): The delicate, light-sensitive, innermost of the three coats of the eyeball. The optic nerve enters the posterior of the eyeball and then expands to form the retina, which extends forward to the margin of the pupil. Thus it is composed of nerve tissue which receives stimuli from light and transmits them to the visual centre in the brain. It is soft in consistency, translucent, of a pinkish colour, and made up of layers, the outer one being pigmented and the seven inner ones being nerve tissue, the innermost of which contains the rods and cones, the receptors for light. In the centre of the posterior retina is the *macula lutea* or yellow spot, and in the centre of it is the *fovea centralis*, the area of most acute vision. DETACHED R. partial or complete separation of the retina from the choroid; may be due to trauma, or to haemorrhage into the choroid. — retinae, pl.; retinal, adj.

retinaculum (ret-i-nak'ū-lum): 1. An instrument for holding tissues out of the way during surgery. 2. A band or structure that holds an organ or tissue in place. 3. A frenum (*q.v.*).

retinal (ret'i-nal): 1. Related to the retina. R. DETACHMENT, see DETACHED R. under RETINA. 2. Part of a pigment extracted from the retina; the chief component of rhodopsin; can be converted into vitamin A by light and resynthesized into rhodopsin in the dark; allows for maximum vision in a dim light.

retinitis (ret-i-nī'tis): Inflammation of the retina. R. CIRCINATA a condition of inadequate vascularity of the retina; characterized by the deposition of lipids in the pattern of a complete or incomplete ring in the deeper layers of the retina; seen most in the elderly; R. PIGMENTOSA a familial degenerative disease that leads to blindness following intraretinal pigmentation, narrowing of vision, and nyctalopia; often associated with other degenerative

disorders; R. PROLIFERANS proliferation of the retinal vessels extending into the vitreous; occurs in retrolental fibroplasia and diabetic retinopathy; usually seen in children and adolescents.

retinoblastoma (ret'i-nō-blas-tō'ma): A malignant tumour of the neuroglial element of the retina, occurring exclusively in children; usually bilateral. Often several in a family are affected.

retinomalacia (ret'i-nō-ma-lā'shi-a): Softening of the retina.

retinopapillitis (ret'i-nō-pap-i-lī'tis): Inflammation of the retina and the optic disc.

retinopathy (ret'i-nop'a-thi): Any non-inflammatory disease of the retina. DIABETIC R., that which occurs in diabetic patients; progressive disease of the retinal blood vessels with small punctate haemorrhages and dilation of the veins; severe haemorrhage into the vitreous may lead to visual disturbances or blindness; HIGH-ALTITUDE R. retinal changes associated with symptoms of hypoxia, including retinal haemorrhage; HYPERTENSIVE R., vascular R. associated with arteriosclerosis; characterized by 'cotton wool' exudate and linear haemorrhages.

retinopexy (ret'in-ō-pek'si): Fixation of a detached retina by surgery, freezing, laser beam, photocoagulation, or other methods.

retinoschisis (ret'i-nos'ki-sis): Splitting of the retina with the formation of an intra-retinal cyst; a benign and slowly progressive disorder.

retinoscope (ret'i-nō-skōp): Instrument for detection of refractive errors by illumination of the retina using a special mirror.

retinoscopy (ret'i-nos'ko-pi): A method of examining the eye and evaluating refractive errors by projecting a beam of light onto the retina and observing the refraction by the eye of the emergent rays.

retinosis (ret'i-nō'sis): A degenerative condition of the retina; retinomalacia.

retinotoxic (ret'i-nō-tok'sik): Having an injurious effect on the retina.

retract (ri-trakt'): To draw back, shorten, or contract.

retractile (ri-trak'tīl): 1. Capable of being drawn back. 2. The state of being drawn back.

retraction (ri-trak'shun): A drawing back or backward. R. OF NIPPLE, frequently a sign of breast cancer.

retractor (ri-trak'tor): 1. An instrument for drawing apart the edges of a wound during surgery so as to expose the deeper structures

- or make them more accessible. 2. A muscle that draws a part backward.
- retrad** (rē'trad): Toward the back or posterior.
- retro-**: Combining form denoting: 1. Backward. 2. Located behind. 3. Contrary to a natural or ordinary course.
- retroaction** (ret'rō-ak'shun): Action in a direction that is the reverse of normal.
- retroauricular** (ret'rō-aw-rik'ū-lar): Behind the auricle of the external ear.
- retrobuccal** (ret'rō-buk'al): Pertinent to the back part of the mouth or cheek.
- retrobulbar** (ret'rō-bul'bar): 1. Behind the medulla oblongata. 2. Pertaining to or located at the back of the eyeball or behind it. R. NEURITIS inflammation of that portion of the optic nerve behind the eyeball.
- retrocaecal** (ret'rō-sē'kal): Behind the caecum, *e.g.*, a retrocaecal appendix.
- retrocalcaneobursitis** (ret'rō-kal-kā'nē-ō-bur-sī'tis): Achillobursitis.
- retrocele** (ret' -rō-sēl): Herniation of the rectum through the posterior vaginal wall.
- retrocervical** (ret'rō-ser-vī'kal): Behind the cervix of the uterus.
- retrocession** (ret-rō-sesh'un): 1. Going backward; a relapse. 2. A backward displacement, particularly of the uterus as a whole.
- retrocolic** (ret-rō-kol'ik): Behind the colon.
- retrocollis** (ret-rō-kol'is): Retrocollic spasm in which the head is drawn backward.
- retrocruial** (ret-rō-krū'ral): Relating to the back of the leg.
- retrodeviation** (ret'rō-dē-vi-ā'shun): A bending backward.
- retrodisplacement** (ret'rō-dis-plās'ment): Backward displacement of an organ or part.
- retroflexed** (ret'rō-flext): Bent backwards.
- retroflexion** (ret-rō-flek'shun): The state of being bent backward, specifically the bending backward of the body of the uterus at an acute angle, the cervix remaining in its normal position. Opp. to antelexion. — retroflexed, adj.
- retrograde** (ret'rō-grād): Going backward. R. AMNESIA loss of memory for events that occurred just before trauma, illness, or emotional shock; R. CONDUCTION movement of impulses through the cardiac conduction system in a direction that is the reverse of the usual conduction pattern; R. PYELOGRAPHY see PYELOGRAPHY.
- retrogression** (ret-rō-gresh'un): 1. Reversal in a condition or development. 2. Degeneration; catabolism.
- retroinfection** (ret'rō-in-fek'shun): Infection of the mother by the fetus.
- retrolental** (ret-rō-len'tal): Behind the crystalline lens. R. FIBROPLASIA the presence of fibrous tissue in the vitreous, from the retina to the lens, causing blindness. Noticed shortly after birth, more commonly in premature babies who have had continuous oxygen therapy.
- retrolingual** (ret'rō-ling'gwal): Relating to the back of the tongue or the area behind it.
- retro-orbital** (ret'rō-or'bit-al): Behind the orbit of the eye.
- retroperitoneal** (ret'rō-per-i-to-nē'al): Behind the peritoneum. R. SPACE the space between the posterior peritoneum and the posterior abdominal wall; contains the kidneys and adrenal glands, the aorta, the vena cava, and the sympathetic nervous system.
- retroperitoneum** (ret'rō-per-i-to-nē'um): The space between the peritoneum and the posterior body wall.
- retroperitonitis** (ret'rō-per-i-to-nī'tis): Inflammation of tissues in the peritoneal space.
- retropharyngeal** (ret'rō-fa-rin'jē-al): Behind the pharynx. R. ABSCESS, one between the pharynx and the spine.
- retropharynx** (ret'rō-far'inks): The posterior part of the pharynx.
- retroplasia** (ret'rō-plā'zi-a): Degeneration of a cell or tissue whereby lack of normal cellular activity results in reversion to an earlier more primitive form, or progresses to necrosis or death.
- retroposed** (ret'rō-pōzd): Displaced backward but not bent.
- retropubic** (ret-rō-pū'bik): Behind the pubis. R. SPACE the space immediately above the pubis and between the peritoneum and the posterior side of the rectus abdominis muscle. Also called the *space of Retzius*.
- retropulsion** (ret-rō-pul'shun): 1. Forcing back of any part, *e.g.*, the fetal head during labour. 2. The involuntary tendency to walk backward as sometimes occurs in tabes dorsalis or Parkinson's disease.
- retrospective** (ret-rō-spek'-tiv): Referring to or pertaining to things in the past. R. CHART AUDIT an examination of patients' charts after care has been given; may take place while they are still in the hospital or after they have been discharged; the purpose is to evaluate the care in comparison to set standards. Nurses may conduct such an audit to evaluate effectiveness of the care that was given and alter their care plans for other patients accordingly.
- retrosternal** (ret-rō-ster'nal): Behind the breastbone.

retrosymphysial (ret-rō-sim-fiz'i-al): Behind the symphysis pubis.

retrotracheal (ret-rō-tra'ki-al): Behind the trachea.

retrouterine (ret-rō-ū'ter-in): Behind the uterus.

retroversioflexion (ret'rō-ver-si-ō-flek'shun): Combined retroversion and retroflexion of the uterus.

retroversion (ret-rō-ver'zhun): Turning or tilting backward. Opp. of anteversion. R. OF THE UTERUS tilting of the whole of the uterus and the cervix backward, with the cervix pointing forward; may be developmental, acquired after childbirth, or due to some pelvic pathology such as the presence of a cyst, tumour, or adhesions.

retrovirus (ret-rō-vī'rus): Any of the Retroviridae family of complex viruses, some of which induce the development of certain tumours, e.g., lymphoma and sarcoma.

revaccination (rē'vaks-in-ā'shun): Vaccination of an individual who has been successfully vaccinated previously.

revascularization (rē-vas'kū-lar-ī-zā'shun): 1. The regrowth of blood vessels in a tissue or organ after deprivation of the normal blood supply. 2. The reestablishment of the blood supply to a part by the operation of grafting a blood vessel.

reverse isolation: See under ISOLATION.

reversible brain syndrome: Also known as acute brain syndrome or delirium; caused by a variety of biological stressors and characterized by loss of cognition; recovery is possible.

reversion (rē-ver'zhun): 1. The appearance of an inherited characteristic in an individual after several generations in which it has not appeared. 2. A return to a previous state or condition.

Rh: Symbol of rhesus, rhesus blood groups in particular.

rhabdo-: Combining form denoting rod-shaped, or relationship to a rod.

rhabdocyte (rab'dō-sīt): A band cell; see under CELL.

rhabdomyoma (rab'dō-mī-ō'ma): A benign tumour of striated muscle.

rhabdomyosarcoma (rab'dō-mī-ō-sar-kō'ma): A rare malignant tumour, usually involving the striated muscle cells of the muscles of the extremities and the torso; grows rapidly and metastasizes early.

rhacoma (ra-kō'ma): Relaxation of the integument of the scrotum, causing it to become pendulant.

rhagades (rag'a-dēz): Cracks or fissures in the skin, especially around a body orifice, seen in

vitamin deficiencies and syphilis. When they occur around the nares and mouth in cases of congenital syphilis, they leave superficial elongated scars that are pathognomonic for the disease.

-rhage, -rrhage, -rrhagia: Combining forms denoting haemorrhage, a bursting forth, or profuse flow.

-rhaphy, -rrhaphy: Combining forms denoting a joining together in a seam; suturing.

rhegma (rēg'ma): A rupture, fracture, or tear.

rheo-: Combining form denoting flow, or relation to electricity.

rheocardiology (rē'ō-kar-di-ol'o-ji): The technique of measuring and recording the changes in electric conductivity of the body during the cardiac cycle.

rheocythaemia (rē'ō-sī-thē'mi-a): The presence of degenerated red blood cells in the peripheral circulation.

rheoencephalography (rē'ō-en-kef-a-log'ra-fi, -sef-): The measurement of blood flow through the brain.

rheometer (rē-om'i-ter): An instrument for measuring the flow of viscous substances, such as blood.

rheophore (rē'ō-for): A cord conducting an electric current, particularly as between a patient and an electrical apparatus; an electrode.

rheotometry (rē-ō-tom'e-tri): The measurement of blood flow.

rhesus (rē'sus): A genus of monkey from India much used in medical research and experimentation; *Macaca mulatta*. R. FACTOR, usually called Rh factor, a substance with antigenic properties that is present in the red blood cells of most people. Blood that has this factor is designated as Rh positive and that which does not is designated Rh negative. If a person with Rh negative blood is given Rh positive blood in transfusion, antibodies develop in the recipient's blood and, in the event of a second transfusion, will cause agglutination of red cells and severe reaction in the patient. If a fetus with Rh positive blood has a mother with Rh negative blood, some of the Rh positive blood enters the mother's bloodstream via the placenta; her blood builds up antibodies against this substance and they enter the fetus's circulation (again via the placenta) where they cause destruction of the red blood cells and the development of erythroblastosis fetalis (*q.v.*) in the infant.

rheum (room): A watery discharge from a mucous membrane, of the nose and eyes in particular.

rheumatthritis (roo-mar-thrī'tis): Rheumatism affecting chiefly the joints.

rheumatalgia (roo-ma-tal'ji-a): Rheumatic pain.

rheumatic (roo-mat'ik): Relating to or affected by rheumatism. R. FACTOR an antibody that reacts against human globulin; is diagnostic for rheumatic arthritis when it can be demonstrated in the blood serum; R. FEVER see ACUTE RHEUMATISM under RHEUMATISM; R. HEART DISEASE a serious form of rheumatic fever, consisting of inflammatory changes and damaged heart valves; may occur as an accompaniment to or sequela of that disease; usually involves the endocardium, including the mitral valve, the myocardium, and the pericardium. The heart may be seriously and permanently damaged. A frequent cause of death in children and young adults.

rheumatid (roo'ma-tid): A nodule or other skin eruption that may accompany rheumatism.

rheumatism (roo'ma-tizm): A non-specific term embracing a diverse group of diseases and syndromes that have, in common, disorder or disease of connective tissue and hence usually present with pain, or stiffness, or swelling of muscles and joints. The main groups are rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, non-articular rheumatism, osteoarthritis and gout. ACUTE R. (rheumatic fever) a disorder tending to recur but initially commonest in childhood, classically presenting as fleeting polyarthritis of the larger joints, pyrexia and carditis within 3 weeks following a streptococcal throat infection. Atypically, but not infrequently, the symptoms are trivial and ignored, but carditis may be severe and result in permanent cardiac damage; the most common cause of mitral stenosis in later life because of scar tissue resulting from inflammation of the valve. GONORRHOEAL R., that which results from a systemic infection with the gonococcus; LUMBAR R. lumbago (*q.v.*); MUSCULAR R., term for a number of muscle conditions characterized by pain, tenderness and local spasm; includes myalgia, myositis, fibromyositis, torticollis; NON-ARTICULAR R., involves the soft tissues; includes fibrositis; (*q.v.*); OSSEOUS R., arthritis deformans, see under ARTHRITIS; PALINDROMIC R., a condition characterized by irregularly occurring attacks of afebrile arthritis and peri-arthritis of only one joint, which becomes red and swollen; the symptoms disappear within a short time without producing lasting deformity of the joints; TUBERCULOUS R. inflammation of the joints due to toxins of the tubercle bacillus.

rheumatoid (roo'ma-toyd): Resembling rheumatism. R. ARTHRITIS a chronic disease of unknown aetiology, characterized by polyarthritis affecting mainly the smaller peripheral joints, accompanied by general ill health and resulting eventually in varying degrees of ankylosis, crippling joint deformities, and associated muscle wasting; see STILL'S DISEASE; R. FACTOR a factor found in the serum of patients with rheumatoid arthritis; laboratory tests for its presence are useful in diagnosis.

rheumatologist (roo-ma-to'l'o-jist): A physician who specializes in rheumatic conditions.

rheumatology (roo-ma-to'l'o-ji): The study of rheumatic diseases.

rhexis (rek'sis): Rupture or bursting of an organ, blood vessel, or tissue.

Rh factor: Rhesus factor. See under RHESUS.

Rh haemolytic disease: Erythroblastosis fetalis. See ERYTHROBLASTOSIS.

rhigosis (ri-gō'sis): The perception of the sensation of cold.

rhin-, rhino-: Combining forms denoting the nose.

rhinal (rī'nal): Relating to the nose.

rhinalgia (rī-nal' -ji-a): Pain in the nose.

rhinallergosis (rīn'al-er-gō'sis): Allergic rhinitis.

Rh incompatibility: see RHESUS FACTOR under RHESUS.

rhinelcos (rī-nel'kōs): An ulcer in the nose.

rhinencephalon (rī'nen-kef'a-lon, -sef' -): The part of the cerebral cortex concerned with the reception and interpretation of olfactory stimuli. — rhinencephalic, adj.

rhinenchysis (rī-nen'kī-sis): 1. The instillation of a medication into the nose. 2. The washing out of the nasal cavity, nasal douche.

rhiniatry (rī-nī'a-tri): The treatment of nasal defects and disorders of the nose.

rhinism (rī'nizm): A nasal quality of voice; rhinolalia.

rhinitis (rī-nī'tis): Inflammation of the nasal mucous membrane. ACUTE R. coryza; the common cold; ALLERGENIC R., R. caused by any effective allergen such as pollen; usually seasonal but may be perennial; R. MEDICAMENTOSA inflammation of the nasal mucosa resulting from overuse or improper use of topical medications; VASOMOTOR R. congestion of the nasal mucosa that is non-infectious and non-seasonal; catarrh.

rhinoantritis (rī'nō-an-trī'tis): Inflammation of the nose and either or both of the maxillary sinuses.

rhinobyon (rī-nō'bi-on): A nasal tampon or plug.

rhinocanthectomy (rī'nō-kan-thek'to-mi): Excision of the inner canthus of the eye.

rhinocheiloplasty (rī'nō-kī'lō-plas-ti): Plastic surgery on the nose and upper lip. Also *rhinocheiloplasty*.

rhinocleisis (rī'nō-klī'sis): Any obstruction in the nasal passageways.

rhinodacryolith (rī'nō-dak'ri-ō-lith): A lacrimal concretion formed in the nasal duct.

rhinodynia (rī'nō-din'i-a): Pain in the nose; rhinalgia.

rhinoedemá (rī'nē-dē'ma): Swelling of the nose or of the nasal mucosa.

rhinogenous (rī-noj'e-nus): Originating or arising in the nose.

rhinokyphectomy (rī'nō-kī-fek'to-mi): A plastic operation to remove an abnormal hump on the nose.

rhinokyphosis (rī'nō-kī-fō'sis): The presence of an excessively prominent hump on the bridge of the nose.

rhinolalia (rī'nō-lā'-li-a): Having a voice of nasal quality due to some defect of structure or pathology of the nose.

rhinolaryngitis (rī'nō-lar-in-jī'tis): Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose and of the larynx, occurring at the same time.

rhinomiosis (rī'-nō-mī-ō'sis): A plastic operation for reducing the size of the nose.

rhinomycosis (rī'nō-mī-kō'sis): A fungal infection of the mucous membrane of the nose.

rhinonecrosis (rī'nō-ne-krō'sis): Necrosis of the nasal bones.

rhinopathy (rī-nop'a-thi): Any disease of the nose or nasal structures.

rhinopharyngitis (rī'nō-far'in-jī'tis): Inflammation of the posterior nares and the upper part of the pharynx.

rhinopharyngocele (rī'nō-far-ing'gō-sēl): A tumour situated in the nasopharynx.

rhinopharyngolith (rī'nō-far-ing'gō-lith): A stone in the nasopharynx.

rhinopharynx (rī'nō-far'inks): The upper part of the pharynx which lies above the soft palate and communicates with the nasal cavity; the nasopharynx.

rhinophonia (rī'nō-fō'ni-a): Having a voice of nasal quality. *Rhinolalia* (*q.v.*).

rhinophycomycosis (rī'nō-fī-kō-mī-kō'sis): A fungal infection in which polyps form in the subcutaneous tissues of the nose and sinuses; may extend to paranasal sinuses, the cerebrum, and to the eye, causing blindness.

rhinoplasty (rī'nō-plas-ti): Plastic surgery to alter the shape or size of the nose or to repair a defect.

rhinopolypus (rī'nō-pol'i-pus): A polyp on the mucous membrane of the nose.

rhinorrhagia (rī'nō-rā'ji-a): Nosebleed.

rhinorrhoea (rī'nō-rē'a): 1. Free discharge of thin watery mucus from the nose. 2. The escape of cerebrospinal fluid through the nose.

rhinosalpingitis (rī'nō-sal-pin-jī'tis): Inflammation of the nasal mucosa and the auditory tube.

rhinoscleroma (rī'nō-sklē-rō'ma): A chronic infectious condition involving the nose, upper lip, and mouth; starts with the development of hard nodules in the nose and extends to the pharynx, larynx, trachea, and bronchi.

rhinoscopy (rī-nos'ko-pi): Examination of the nose by means of an instrument called a rhinoscope.

rhinostenosis (rī'nō-sten-ō'sis): Narrowing or constriction of the nasal passages.

rhinotomy (rī-not'o-mi): Any cutting operation on or in the nose.

rhinotracheitis (rī'nō-trak-ē-tī'tis): Inflammation of the nasal mucosa and the trachea.

rhinovaccination (rī'nō-vak-si-nā'shun): The application of an immunizing material to the mucous membrane of the nose.

rhinovirus (rī'nō-vī-rus): Any one of a large group of viruses considered to be the cause of common colds. More than 100 varieties have been identified.

rhitid-: For words beginning thus see those beginning RHYTID-.

rhizo-: Combining form denoting relationship to a root.

rhizoid (rī'zoyd): Resembling a root.

rhizomeningomyelitis (rī'zō-me-nin'gō-mī-elī'tis): Radiculomeningomyelitis (*q.v.*).

rhizotomy (rī-zot'o-mi): Surgical division of a root, especially that of a nerve. ANTERIOR R., sectioning of the anterior root of a spinal nerve for the relief of essential hypertension. POSTERIOR R., sectioning of the posterior root of a spinal nerve for the relief of intractable pain. CHEMICAL R., accomplished by injection of a chemical, often phenol.

Rh negative: see RHESUS FACTOR under RHESUS.

rhombencephalon (rom-ben-kef' a-lon, -sef'): The hind-brain or after-brain; includes the pons, cerebellum, and medulla oblongata.

rhomboideus (rom-boy'dē-us): One of the two large muscles of the upper back; they lie under the trapezii and act to draw the scapula upward and toward the median line and to rotate it.

rhoncus (ron'kus): 1. A whistling, turbulent, rattling, rumbling, or snorous sound heard on auscultation when there is exudate or fluid in

the bronchi. 2. A rattling in the throat. See **SIBILUS**. — rhonchi, pl.; rhonchial, rhonchal, adj.

Rh positive: See **RHESUS FACTOR** under **RHESUS**.

Rh sensitivity: The state of being or becoming sensitized to the rhesus factor, *e.g.*, as happens when an Rh-negative woman is pregnant with an Rh-positive fetus. See **BLOOD GROUPS**.

-rhyxis: A combining form denoting a flowing out.

rhythm (rith'em): The regular recurrence of a similar feature, action, or situation, *e.g.*, the heartbeat. **ALPHA R.**, R. seen as uniform waves on the normal electroencephalogram when the subject's eyes are closed and the brain is at relative rest; average frequency is about 10 per second; **BETA R.**, R., of smaller and faster waves, also seen on the EEG; the average frequency is about 25 per second; **BIOLOGICAL R.**, cyclic variations in level of activity, physical and chemical functions of the body, and emotional states; **CIRCADIAN R.**, R. having a cycle of 24 hours; **CIRCAMENSUAL R.**, R. having a cycle of about 30 days. **CIRCANNUAL R.**, R. having a cycle of about one year; **CIRCASEPTAL R.**, R. having a cycle of about seven days; **DIURNAL R.**, R. in which fluctuations are confined to the working day; **GALLOP R.**, is of two types: (1) ventricular G.R., marked by a three-sound sequence in which two heartbeats occur close together followed by a third louder sound, the sound resembling that of a galloping horse; and (2) atrial G.R., R. in which a fourth sound is heard when the atrium contracts in resistance to ventricular filling; **IDEOVENTRICULAR R.** a slow ventricular rhythm controlled by an ectopic centre in the ventricle independently of the atrial rhythm; **INFRADIAN R.**, R. having a cycle longer than 24 hours; may be weeks or months; **NODAL R.**, R. initiated in the atrioventricular node and the main bundle of His; **R. METHOD**, see under **METHOD**; **SINUS R.**, normal heart rhythm as initiated by electrical impulses in the sinoatrial node; **THETA R.**, the theta wave in the electroencephalogram; see under **WAVE**; **ULTRADIAN R.**, R. having a cycle of less than 24 hours. — rhythmic, adj.

rhythmicity (rith-mis'i-ti): The property of rhythmic recurrence of an action or situation. In cardiology, the natural ability of the heart to beat rhythmically.

rhytidectomy (rit-i-dek'to-mi): The surgical removal of wrinkles. Face-lifting. Also called *rhytidoplasty*.

rhytidosis (rit-i-dō'sis): 1. Wrinkling of the skin of the face. 2. Wrinkling of the cornea. Also spelled *rhitidosis*.

rib: Any one of the paired bones, 12 on either side, which articulate with the twelve dorsal vertebrae posteriorly and form the walls of the thorax. The upper seven pairs are **TRUE RIBS** and are attached to the sternum anteriorly by costal cartilage. The remaining five pairs are the **FALSE RIBS**. The first three pairs of these do not have an attachment to the sternum but are bound to each other by costal cartilage. The lower two pairs are the **FLOATING R.S** which have no anterior articulation. **CERVICAL R.S** are formed by an extension of the transverse process of the seventh cervical vertebra in the form of bone or a fibrous tissue band; this causes an upward displacement of the subclavian artery; a congenital abnormality. **R. CAGE**, the bony thorax; consists of the sternum, ribs, and thoracic vertebrae.

riboflavin (rī'bō-flā'vin): Vitamin B₆, a member of the vitamin B complex. Essential for growth and good vision; aids in digestion and carbohydrate metabolism. Found in liver, milk, eggs, kidney, lean meats, malt, yeast, green leafy vegetables, whole grain and enriched flour and cereals; also synthesized. Deficiency may result in lowered resistance and vitality, cracks at corners of the mouth and lesions on lips, glossitis, anaemia, retarded growth, photophobia, cataracts.

ribonuclease (rī'bō-nū'klē-ās): An enzyme present in various body tissues; is responsible for the breakdown of ribonucleic acid.

ribonucleic acid (rī'bō-nū-klē'ik as'id): A nucleic substance found in the nucleus and cytoplasm of all living cells and in many viruses; the medium by which genetic instructions from the chromosomes in the nucleus are transmitted to the rest of the cell and an important factor in the synthesis of protein within the cells. Differences in the molecular structure of the RNA particles determine the difference between messenger RNA, which is believed to transmit the genetic code, and transfer RNA, which carries amino acids to the ribosomes (*q.v.*) for protein synthesis.

ribonucleoprotein (rī'bō-nū'klē-ō-prō'te-in): Any of a large group of complex molecules which, on hydrolysis, yield ribonucleic acid and protein.

ribose (rī'bōs): A pentose sugar occurring in riboflavin and ribonucleic acids.

ribosome (rī'bō-sōm): One of the small complex particles within the cytoplasm of living cells that contain ribonucleic acid and various proteins and which synthesize protein within the cell.

ribosuria (rī-bō-sū'ri-a): The presence of ribose in the urine; occurs especially in patients with muscular dystrophy.

rice-water stool: The stool of cholera. The 'rice grains' are small pieces of desquamated epithelium from the intestine.

ricin (rī'sin): A poisonous substance found in the seeds of the castor-oil plant.

ricinism (ris'i-nizm): Poisoning by ricin or castor oil.

Ricinus (ris'i-nus): A genus of plants including the castor-oil plant, the seeds of which are the source of castor oil.

ricketts (rik'ets): A disorder of calcium and phosphorus metabolism associated with a deficiency of vitamin D, and beginning most often between the ages of 6 months and 2 years. There is proliferation and deficient ossification of the growing epiphyses of bones, producing bossing, softening and bending of the long weight-bearing bones, muscular hypotonia, head sweating, delayed closure of the fontanelles, degeneration of the liver and spleen and, if the blood calcium falls sufficiently, tetany. FETAL R. see ACHONDROPLASIA; RENAL R. condition of decalcification of bones (osteoporosis) associated with chronic kidney disease and clinically simulating R. It occurs in later age groups than R., and is due to retention of phosphorus in the blood, which prevents absorption of calcium, and is characterized by excessive calcium loss in the urine.

Rickettsia (ri-ket'si-a): A group of small parasitic Gram-negative, non-filterable microorganisms that are like bacteria in some ways and like viruses in others. Their natural habitat is the gut of arthropods such as lice, mites, ticks, fleas. They are the vectors of many diseases, transmitting the organisms to humans through their bites. One clinical classification, based on groups of rickettsiae according to the diseases they cause, lists four groups: (1) typhus group, the causative agents in epidemic and endemic typhus; (2) spotted fever group, the causative agents in Rocky Mountain spotted fever, boutonneuse fever, and rickettsialpox; (3) tsutsugamushi group, the causative agents in tsutsugamushi disease and in both rural and scrub typhus; (4) miscellaneous group, the causative agents in trench fever and Q fever.

rickettsialpox (ri-ket'si-al-poks): An acute self-limited febrile disease resembling chickenpox; caused by the bite of a mite that infests house mice. Characterized by chills, fever, myalgia, headache, and a papulovesicular rash; a papule

forms at the site of the bite, vesicates, and becomes escharotic. Usually non-fatal.

rickettsiosis (ri-ket-si-ō'sis): Infection with *Rickettsia*.

ricketty (rik'i-ti): Suffering from rickets. R. ROSARY see RACHITIC ROSARY under RACHITIC.

Rift Valley fever: A highly infectious, virulent, viral disease, primarily of animals but transmissible to humans through many species of mosquitoes or the handling of infected animals; marked by headache, malaise, myalgia, pain in the bones, encephalitis, liver damage, retinitis that can lead to blindness. Seen particularly in certain parts of Africa and the Near East.

righting reflex: See under REFLEX.

rights: Legal or moral entitlements. The recognition in law that certain absolute freedoms should be respected. See HUMAN RIGHTS.

right to die: Refers to a debatable issue concerning employment by others of 'mercy killing' or 'involuntary euthanasia' when an individual cannot make that decision because of being in a condition such as irreversible coma, or of having suffered 'brain death', and cannot be expected to recover.

rigid (rij'id): Firm; hard; unyielding; inflexible.

rigidity (ri-jid'i-ti): Stiffness, inflexibility or rigor, particularly that which is abnormal or pathological. COGWHEEL R. muscle R. that progresses from rhythmic jerky movements to passive stretching; DECEREBRATE R. rigid contraction of the extensor and other muscles involved in maintaining the standing position; due to a lesion in the brain stem; HEMIPLEGIC R., R. of the paralysed limbs in paraplegia; LEAD-PIPE R., the muscular rigidity seen in persons with Parkinson's disease; POSTMORTEM R. see RIGOR MORTIS under RIGOR.

rigor (rig'or): 1. Stiffness, rigidity. 2. A sudden chill, accompanied by severe shivering. The body temperature rises rapidly and remains high until perspiration ensues and causes a gradual fall in temperature. R. MORTIS the stiffening of the body after death.

rigour: Severity in dealing with a person or persons; extreme strictness; harshness. The strict terms, application, or enforcement of some law, rule, etc.

rimose (rēm'os): Fissured; having many cracks going in all directions.

rimula (rēm'ū-la): A very small crack or fissure, particularly one in the brain or spinal cord.

ring: In chemistry, a closed chain of atoms in a cyclic compound, e.g., the benzene R. In anatomy, a more or less circular structure that sur-

- rounds an opening or an area. **EXTERNAL INGUINAL R.** the opening in the fascia of the transversalis muscle through which the vas deferens or the round ligament passes into the inguinal canal; **INTERNAL INGUINAL R.** the opening in the aponeurosis of the external oblique muscle through which the spermatic cord or round ligament passes; **WALDEYER'S R.** the ring of lymphoid tissue in the throat; made up of the lingual, palatine, and pharyngeal tonsils.
- Ringer's solution:** A sterile isotonic solution containing a mixture of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and calcium chloride in distilled water; used as a fluid and electrolyte replenisher. **LACTATED R.S.** contains sodium chloride, sodium lactate, potassium chloride, and calcium chloride in distilled water; it has the same uses as Ringer's solution. Also called *Hartmann's solution*.
- ringworm:** A broad general term used to describe a group of diseases of the skin and its appendages; caused by a fungus. So called because the common manifestations are circular, scaly patches. See **TINEA** and **MYCOSIS**.
- Rinne test:** Testing of air conduction and bone conduction hearing, by tuning fork. Discriminates between conduction and sensorineural deafness. [Heinrich Rinne, German otologist, 1819–1868.]
- risk:** A hazard; the possibility of harm. **R. ASSESSMENT** the qualitative or quantitative estimation of the likelihood of adverse effects that may result from exposure to specified health hazards or from the absence of beneficial influences, see **CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH; HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION**; **R. FACTOR** an element that increases the possibility or likelihood of harm or of a harmful occurrence; the systematic investigation and forecasting of risks in business and commerce; **R. MANAGEMENT** identifying, analysing, and controlling the risks from untoward occurrences in clinical and non-clinical areas; effective and timely incident reporting by all staff are essential components of effective practice.
- Risser jacket:** A specialized body cast used in correcting structural scoliosis; employs a spica jacket which usually incorporates the head and sometimes the arm; the cast is split on the side of the curve and a turnbuckle is incorporated into the two halves; as the two parts of the cast are opened out by the turnbuckle, correction takes place; when this is accomplished spinal fusion may be performed through a window in the jacket.
- risus sardonicus** (rī'sus sar-don'i-kus): An expression resembling a grin, caused by spasm of facial muscles; seen in tetanus (*q.v.*).
- ritual** (rich'ū-al): In psychiatry, any psychomotor activity that a person persists in performing when there is no need for it; a means of relieving anxiety. See **OBSESSIONAL NEUROSIS** under **NEUROSIS**.
- RNA:** Abbreviation for ribonucleic acid (*q.v.*).
- Robert's Law of Progression:** Describes a condition occurring in the elderly in whom early forgetfulness increases progressively until the individual cannot remember recent events whether or not they are important to his life and safety, but may remember earlier events clearly; the resulting development of hostility and resentment has a marked effect on the person's behaviour.
- Robertson's pupil:** See **ARGYLL ROBERTSON PUPIL**.
- Rochelle salt:** Potassium sodium tartrate, formerly much used as a saline cathartic.
- Rocky Mountain spotted fever:** An infectious rickettsial disease formerly thought to be confined to the Rocky Mountain area of the USA, but now known to occur in many other parts of the Western hemisphere. It is transmitted by the bite of an infected tick or by contamination of the broken skin with the crushed tissues or faeces of an infected tick. It is characterized by fever, headache, conjunctivitis, and a maculopapular rash. Also called *tick fever* and *spotted fever*.
- rod:** In anatomy, a slender mass of substance, specifically the rod-like bodies found in the retina. See also **CONE; HARRINGTON ROD**.
- rodent** (rō'dent): A gnawing animal. **R. ULCER** see **BASAL-CELL CARCINOMA** under **CARCINOMA**
- rodalgia** (rō-dō-nal'ji-a): A condition characterized by cutaneous vasodilatation of the blood vessels of the feet and sometimes of the hand, causing redness, mottling, neuralgic pain, swelling, and increase in skin temperature of the extremities. Also called *erythromelalgia* and *acromelalgia*.
- roentgenography** (rent'gen-og'ra-fi): Examination of part of the body by means of a photograph made by exposure of the part to roentgen rays. See **RADIOGRAPHY**.
- roentgenologist** (rent'ge-nol'o-jist): One skilled in the use of roentgen rays for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.
- roentgenology** (rent'ge-nol'o-ji): The study of roentgen rays and their diagnostic and therapeutic uses.

Rogers, Martha: The nursing academic who formulated the concept of unitary health care. She created the conceptual health-care system that became known as the Science of Unitary Human Beings.

rolandic (rō-lan'dik): Relating to structures first described by Rolando. **R. AREA** the area in the cortex of the cerebrum that is concerned with the control of motor activities; **R. FISSURE** the boundary between the frontal and parietal lobes of the cerebrum. [Luigi Rolando, Italian anatomist, 1773–1831.]

role: The kind of behaviour expected of a person because of his particular place in his or her social setting or situation, *e.g.*, the mother's role, nurse's role, the sick role, etc. Every person assumes or fulfils more than one role on occasion or as demanded by the situation, *e.g.*, the mother role and the nurse role may be enacted simultaneously.

rolfing: A technique, developed by Dr Ida Rolf, a chemist, based on the theory that the body is not a unit but an aggregate of large structures. It involves manipulating the muscles of the body with the purpose of helping the individual to establish relationships between deep structures that will result in symmetrical balanced functioning of the body when upright.

Romberg: **R.'S DISEASE** facial hemiatrophy, usually progressive and may involve most of the structures of the face. Symptoms may appear early in childhood along with epilepsy, trigeminal neuralgia, and alopecia; reconstructive surgery and orthodontia are often used successfully; **R.'S SIGN**, a sign of ataxia (*q.v.*); inability to stand erect without swaying when the eyes are closed and the feet together; also called *rombergism*, *Romberg's phenomenon*, and *Romberg's test*. [Moritz Romberg, German neurologist, 1795–1873.]

rongeur (ron-zhur'): A type of forceps designed for cutting bone.

roof: A top covering membrane or structure. **R. OF THE MOUTH** the bony and muscular structure between the nasal and oral cavities; the palate.

rooming-in: The practice of keeping the neonate in a crib at the mother's bedside during the hospital stay; said to have psychological and physical advantages for both mother and infant and to facilitate 'on demand' feeding and bonding.

root: In anatomy, (1) the base, foundation, origin, beginning, or lowest part of a structure; (2) the embedded part of the structure; or (3) the proximal end of a nerve. **R. OF THE LUNG**

the bronchus, pulmonary artery and veins, plexuses of pulmonary nerves, lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, all of which are embedded in mediastinal tissue with the mass entering the lung at the hilus, thus forming the root.

rooting reflex: See under **REFLEX**.

Rorschach test (ror'shahk): A psychological test that also measures the elements of personality; consists of a series of ink blots, which the patient is told to look at and then simply tell what he sees. [Herman Rorschach, Swiss psychiatrist, 1884–1922.]

rosacea (rō-zā'shē-a): A chronic skin disease affecting the nose particularly; marked by flushing due to chronic dilatation of the capillaries, often complicated by the appearance of papules and acne-like pustules. Called also *acne rosacea*, *acne erythematosa*, *brandy face*, *rum nose*, *rum blossom*. Occurs most often in adult males.

rosaceiform (rō-zā'shē-i-form): Resembling acne rosacea; see under **ACNE**.

rosary: **RACHITIC R.** see under **RACHITIC**.

roseola (rō-zē-ō'la): A rose-or scarlet coloured rash. **EPIDEMIC R.** rubella (*q.v.*); **R. INFANTUM**, exanthem subitum; **SYPHILITIC R.**, the rose-coloured eruption of early secondary syphilis; usually appears 6–12 weeks after the initial lesion of the disease; spreads over most of the body except for the skin of the hands and face. — *roseolus*, adj.

rose spots: The rose-coloured papular eruption that appears on the abdomen and loins during the first week of typhoid and paratyphoid fevers; the spots disappear on pressure.

Rose-Waaler test: A serological test formerly much used in the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. The presence of rheumatoid factor is detected in the serum by the agglutination of sheep's red blood cells sensitized with rabbit gamma globulin.

rostrate (ros'trāt): Having a beak-like appendage or process.

rostrum (ros'trum): A beak-like or hook-like process. — *rostral*, adj.

rotary (rō' -ta-ri): 1. Relating to or causing rotation. 2. Resembling a body in rotation. **R. NYSTAGMUS** rotation of the eyeball around part of the visual axis.

rotate (rō'tāt): To turn about on an axis.

rotating tourniquet: See under **TOURNIQUET**.

rotation (rō-tā'shun): 1. The act of turning about on an axis that passes through the centre of the body, as **r.** of the head. 2. The turning of the fetus' head as it accommodates to the con-

tours of the birth canal. **EXTERNAL R.** turning the anterior surfaces of a limb outwards; **INTERNAL R.**, turning the anterior surface of a limb inwards or medially.

rotator (rō'tā-tor): A muscle having the action of turning a part.

rotator cuff: Name given to the tendinous cuff over the shoulder; consists of the upper half of the shoulder joint capsule and the insertion tendons of the supraspinatus, infraspinatus, teres minor, and scapularis muscles; it helps to stabilize the joint. **R.C. INJURIES**, injuries that result from improper overhead or swing motion; occurs in those engaging in such sports as tennis, cricket, baseball, or volleyball; also called *rotator cuff impingement syndrome*.

rotavirus (rō-ta-vīrus): A recently recognized virus resembling *Reovirus* (*q.v.*); found worldwide; an important cause of infant diarrhoea, spread by oral-faecal route.

Rothmund-Thomson syndrome: See **POIKILODERMA CONGENITALE**.

rotula (ro'tū-la): **1.** The patella or any similar disc-like bony structure. **2.** A troche or lozenge. — rotular, adj.

roughage (ruf'ij): Coarse food such as unprocessed bran, fresh fruit, and vegetables, which contain much indigestible fibre composed of cellulose. It provides bulk in the diet and by this means helps to stimulate peristalsis and eliminate waste products. Lack of **R.** may cause atonic constipation. Too much **R.** may cause spastic constipation.

rouleau (roo'lō): A row of red blood cells, resembling a roll of coins. — rouleaux, pl.

round ligament: The ligament that passes from the anterior cornu of the uterus forward and downward through the folds of the broad ligament and the inguinal canal and inserts into the subcutaneous fat of the labia; its function is to help hold the uterus in its proper position of anteversion and antelexion.

rounds: The practice employed by health-care professionals of discussing and evaluating the status and care of patients for whom they are collectively responsible. Rounds may be conducted as 'sit-down' conferences or as 'teaching' or 'walking' rounds during which the patients are visited. Medical rounds are led by the physician in charge of the patients' care and are attended by junior medical staff, medical students; nurses and others who have some responsibility for the care of the patients involved may also attend medical rounds. Nursing rounds are attended by members of

the nursing staff and are usually conducted at the beginning of a shift; they may or may not include visits to patients' bedside. **GRAND R.S.**, formal conferences in which an expert gives a lecture or discussion regarding a clinical issue; slides, films, charts, etc. may be used, and the patient involved may or may not be presented.

roundworm: One of the more prevalent intestinal worms parasitic to humans, especially one of the class *Nematoda*; threadworm. See also **ASCARIS**.

route: In health care, the path of administration of a medication.

Roux (roo): **ROUX-EN-Y DRAINAGE** a surgically established system for draining the oesophagus, pancreas, and biliary tract directly into the jejunum, to prevent peristaltic reflux of intestinal content into these organs; **ROUX-EN-Y JEJUNAL LOOP** the segments of the jejunum as rearranged for establishing Roux-en-Y drainage. [Cesar Roux, Swiss surgeon, 1857–1926.]

Rovsing's sign: Pain in the right iliac fossa when pressure is applied in the left iliac fossa; a sign of acute appendicitis.

Royal College of Midwives: Established as the professional organization for midwives in 1881. Concerned with professional education: both statutory and postbasic, standards of professional practice and the negotiation of conditions of service and salaries. It is the only professional organization solely for midwives either as students or as qualified practitioners.

Royal College of Nursing: Founded in 1916 as the professional body for nurses and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1928. It is recognized as both an independent trade union and professional organization. Its main aim is to further both the art and science of nursing. The Royal College of Nursing also maintains the Institute of Advanced Nursing Education.

-rrhaxis: Combining form denoting the spine.

-rrhage, -rrhagia: Combining forms denoting excessive flow.

-rrhaphy: Combining form denoting a joining together by sutures.

-rrhexis: Combining form denoting rupture or splitting.

-rrhoea: Combining form denoting discharge or flow.

rub: **1.** Friction occurring when two surfaces are moved against one another. **2.** The sound heard when two serous surfaces rub together. **PERICARDIAL FRICTION R.** a scraping or grating noise heard over the pericardium on auscultation when the pericardium is inflamed; **PLEURAL**

FRICITION R. the creaking or dry scuffing noise heard at the end of inspiration when the pleural membranes are roughened by inflammation, in the presence of a neoplasm, or in the absence or decrease of pleural fluid.

rubedo (rū-bē'dō): Blushing or other temporary reddening of the skin.

rubefacient (rū-bē-fā'shent): **1.** Producing redness of the skin. **2.** An agent that acts as a counter irritant and produces a reddening when applied to the skin.

rubella (rū-bel'la): An acute, infectious, eruptive fever resembling both measles and scarlet fever, caused by the rubella virus and spread by droplet infection; symptoms include mild fever, coryza, conjunctivitis, a pink rash, possibly enlarged cervical glands, and arthralgia. The course is short and usually uneventful except when contracted in the first three months of pregnancy when it may produce fetal deformities. Also called *German measles* and *three-day measles*.

rubella syndrome: A congenital condition due to intrauterine rubella infection; characterized by deafness, cardiac anomalies, cataracts, thrombocytic purpura, hepatitis, retinitis, encephalitis, occasionally glaucoma.

rubola (ru-bē-ō'la): See MEASLES.

rubeosis (rū-bē-ō'sis): Redness. **R. IRIDIS** the formation of numerous new blood vessels and connective tissue on the surface of the iris; usually bilateral; may occur in patients with diabetes and those with secondary glaucoma; **R. RETINAE** the formation of new blood vessels in front of the optic papilla in patients with retinitis; often occurs in diabetics as well as non-diabetics.

ruber (rū'ber): Red.

rubescient (ru-bes'ent): Reddish, or growing red.

rubiginous (rūbij'i-nus): Having a brownish or rusty colour; most often applies to sputum.

Rubin's test: A test for patency of the uterine tubes; carbon dioxide is insufflated into a tube and, if the tube is patent, the gas will pass out into the abdominal cavity where it can be visualized by x-ray. A manometer may be used to determine the pressure of the gas in the tube, which indicates the degree of patency.

rubor (rū'bor): Redness; one of the four classic signs of inflammation, the other three being pain, heat, and swelling.

rubicyte (rū'brī-sīt): An erythroblast (*q.v.*).

rubriuria (rū-bri-ū'ri-a): Red or reddish discoloration of the urine.

ructus (ruk'tus): Belching; eructation. **R. HYS-TERICUS** a condition in which the individual

belches air frequently and noisily. — *ructation*, *n.*

rudimentary (rū-di-men'ta-ri): Imperfectly or incompletely developed; elementary.

ruqa (rū'ga): A wrinkle, corrugation, or fold; often of an impermanent nature and allowing for distension, *e.g.*, the wrinkles and folds seen on the inner surface of the stomach. — *rugae*, *pl.*; *rugose*, *rugous*, *adj.*

rugitus (rū'ji-tus): Rumbling sounds in the intestine caused by movement of flatus; *borborygmus* (*q.v.*).

rule of halves: The rule that states that half of the people in a specific group will take advantage of an available screening programme; half of those found to be at high risk will start a prevention programme; and half of those who start such a programme will reach their set goal.

rule of nines: See WALLACE'S RULE OF NINES, and LUND AND BROWDER'S CHART.

rumblossom: See ROSACEA.

rumination (rū-min-ā'shun): **1.** The voluntary regurgitation of food, and the rechewing and reswallowing of it; most often seen in young children with emotional problems; also sometimes seen in the mentally handicapped and in psychiatric patients. **2.** Chronic vomiting.

ruminative (rū'mi-na'tiv): **1.** Having a tendency to be preoccupied with certain thoughts and ideas. **2.** Having a tendency to regurgitate previously swallowed food; see REGURGITATION.

rump: The gluteal region; the buttocks.

Rumpel-Leede test: A test for capillary fragility. A tourniquet is applied to the upper arm for 5–10 minutes; if petechiae appear on the forearm, the test is said to be positive.

rupia (rū'pi-a): A skin eruption of vesicles and ulcers that appears especially in the tertiary stage of syphilis; the lesions are raised, dark yellow or brown, crusted and adherent, tending to develop into bullae. — *rupial*; *rupoid*, *adj.*

rupture (rup'chur): Tearing, splitting, bursting of a part. A popular name for hernia (*q.v.*).

rushes: Vigorous peristaltic movements producing sounds that are longer and higher pitched than normal bowel sounds.

Rush pin: A pin, rid, or nail used in surgical treatment of major long-bone fractures.

rutilism (rū'ti-lizm): Red-headedness.

R wave: In the ECG, an upward deflection following the Q wave.

R_x: Symbol used at the head of a prescription; stands for the word 'recipe'. Dates back 5000 years to a picture of the eye of Horus, the Egyptian god of healing. See RECIPE.

Ryle's tube**531****Ryle's tube**

Ryle's tube: A small-calibre rubber tube, with a weighted end, introduced via the nose into the stomach. It may be used for the withdrawal of

gastric contents or for the administration of fluids.