
BOOK REVIEWS

Il Principio Antianemico-Pernicioso. By G. ASTALDI AND M. BALDINI. Monograph of *Il Farmaco*, January 1948. pp. 234.

This monograph offers a rather complete review of what has been accomplished and written on the subject of antipernicious anemia preparations since Minot and Murphy's fundamental discovery in 1926.

The main interest of the authors seems to be in the various methods for standardization and dosage of antianemic preparations. They find that no method so far suggested is completely satisfactory and propose a test of their own. This consists of studying the reduction in size of nucleated red cells as the transformation of megaloblasts into normoblasts takes place in the marrow of patients with pernicious anemia. Two marrow samples are obtained and studied, one before administration of the material to be tested and one on the sixth day after it has been administered. They feel that from a therapeutic standpoint the "antimegaloblastic unit" corresponds to the "antianemic unit" (U.S.P.).

The work is well up to date with a short chapter on folic acid and other products which have appeared recently. This part of the work could profitably have been more extensive.

DAVIDE LIMENTANI

Cytologie Sanguine Normale et Pathologique. By M. BESSIS. Paris, Masson & Cie, 1948. pp. 298.

With this work, Bessis offers the student of hematology in a pleasant and attractive fashion the old subject of morphologic hematology much too often cast aside today.

This achievement has been accomplished through a limitation of theoretic considerations and elimination of speculative and polemic discussions. The descriptive part of the text is maintained on a plane of reality and is clarified by the large number of black and white figures and by 19 colored plates. The illustrations, in the form of black and white half tones and of colored tables, are in general good and some are particularly fine.

The material is divided into ten chapters devoted to cytologic techniques, reticulo-endothelial system, quantitative study of the cells of blood and hemopoietic centers, stem cells, erythrocytic, granulocytic, thrombocytic, lymphocytic and histiocytic series and to the cells accidentally found on the smear of blood and hemopoietic organs. Each chapter includes a section on the morphology of pathologic changes involving the subject under discussion. Instructions for puncture of lymph nodes, spleen, liver, tumors, masses, etc., and information concerning normal and pathologic morphologic findings are given. The American reader may not care for the often involved European glossary.

This work does not include any information regarding phase microscopy and histochemical methods which are becoming so much a part of morphologic hematology. The book may be regarded as a valuable addition to the morphologic hematology library.

DAVIDE LIMENTANI

Maladies du Sang et des Organes Hematopoiétiques. By JEAN BERNARD. Paris, Editions Medicales Flammarion, 1948.

This beautifully printed and illustrated book of over 1000 pages represents one volume of a loose leaf system of medicine. There are many colored plates of blood and bone marrow cells. The various hematologic disorders are classified in a rather unusual fashion: those of acute type, those which are chronic (including pernicious anemia, polycythemia, chronic leukemias, etc.), those of constitutional or genotypic type, and those caused by various known factors such as infections and parasites. The whole work is carried out very simply and systematically, perhaps too systematically. There is very little stress placed upon fundamental physio-pathologic principles. The book is recommended for practitioners who wish to obtain a quick and authoritative review of a particular subject, systematically and lucidly presented.

WILLIAM DAMESHEK