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## BOOK REVIEW

THE PATHOLOGY OF DIABETES MELLITUS. By *Shields Warren, Philip M. LeCompte, and Merle A. Legg*. 4th ed., \$16.50, 528 pp. 144 illus. *Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1966*.

This monograph stands as a beacon in medical-literature guiding students, investigators, and practicing physicians in the growing knowledge of diabetes mellitus.

Its authors deserve the highest commendation for maintaining their function over nearly two generations in revising and bringing up to date, in one readable volume of 528 pages, the available information bearing on the pathologic changes preceding, associated with or following diabetes mellitus. They are to be praised for their excellence as editors in providing a critical evaluation of their own and others' work tempering the addition of new reports with reflective comments.

The text is divided into twenty-eight chapters ranging from a splendid historical review through the qualitative, quantitative, gross and microscopic changes of the pancreas in diabetes, the alterations of the pancreas in the nondiabetic state, alterations in metabolism, the arteriosclerosis of diabetes to changes in the various organs and tissues. Beyond this range are chapters dealing with the endocrine organs, hemochromatosis, hyperinsulinism, the special problems of infants born to diabetic mothers and an examination of cancer and diabetes. To complete the perspective there are chapters on spontaneous diabetes in animals, experimental diabetes, the pathologic effects of hypoglycemic drugs other than insulin, and medico-legal aspects of the disease.

Three appendices are provided dealing respectively with autopsy and staining methods and causes of death in diabetic

subjects including the Joslin series. Six color plates and numerous excellent photomicrographs highlight the illustrations. The bibliography at the end of each chapter is presented in judicious selections.

This reviewer can find no fault with such a thorough compilation of knowledge laced with the authors' views on all controversial or speculative studies. They have given due consideration to all investigations bearing on the subject. The publisher is to be congratulated for the excellence of the printing, format and handy size of the publication.

Special praise is due Dr. Albert Renold who contributed the chapter "Intermediary Metabolism in Diabetes Mellitus" for his succinct summary of the consequences of lack of insulin and what is known of the mode of insulin action. This summary bespeaks the wisdom of the authors for its inclusion.

This reviewer also found material interesting enough to read repeatedly in testing the scope of the book. The historical chapter is enlightening and stimulating because of its focus on the little-known work of European pathologists, which is carefully annotated. In appreciation of their roles as pioneers, there are portraits of Laguesse, who predicted the hormonal function of the pancreatic islets; Opie, who first noted hyalinization of the islets in relation to diabetes; Weichselbaum, who documented the histopathology of diabetes; and Gomori, whose special stains differentiated the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  cells first. For the new medical students and the old medical hands, this edition will prove a valuable addition to their personal libraries.