

## Statement on Treatment of Diabetes

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the American Diabetes Association, held in St. Louis, ended on June 14. At the last scientific session on that date, several investigators reported results of studies on the long-term treatment of diabetes. Three papers were presented from the United States, two of which were reports from the University Group Diabetes Program (UGDP), which has received widespread publicity in the public press recently. There were also extensive discussions of studies conducted in England and Sweden. After these presentations, there was considerable discussion.

At a press conference that followed the scientific session, a statement giving the Association's position was read by Dr. Robert C. Hardin, retiring President.

"Status of Problem of Usage of Tolbutamide: Preliminary Statements" appeared on pages 467-68 of the June 1970 issue of this Journal. It included the statement of the Food and Drug Administration of May 22 and that of the Chairman of the University Group Diabetes Program (UGDP) of May 21.

The statement to the press is reprinted in full below:

"The American Diabetes Association commends those persons who have reported studies concerning the effects of therapy on the course of diabetes and its complications at this Annual Meeting.

"New data have been presented, some of which raise questions about the efficacy and safety of oral therapy. However, it is difficult to generalize from these unpublished data. Careful evaluation of the complete data and further study will be necessary to reach final conclusions.

"At this point, the evidence does not appear to warrant abandoning the presently accepted methods of treatment of diabetes—diet, diet with oral agents, or diet and insulin as indicated."

## BOOK REVIEWS

CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY, R. Hall, B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.P., J. Anderson, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., and G. A. Smart, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P., \$15.00, 418 pages, Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co., 1969.

This book is aimed at senior medical students and postgraduate students working for a higher examination in medicine and surgery. The authors have retained the conventional arrangement dealing with each gland and have included chapters dealing with pregnancy, obesity, disorders of growth, and hormonal syndromes associated with neoplasms not derived from endocrine glands. They have avoided the use of frequent references, listing a few key articles and reviews at the end of each chapter.

The book summarizes a wide area of knowledge and the authors have attempted to keep up to date. Many of the references quoted were published in 1968. A short section on calcitonin and its possible use in man is included, as are sections on the Alexander-Harden regime for distinguishing drug-responsive from relapse-prone thyrotoxic patients treated with antithyroid drugs, and on the effects of oral contraceptives on fat and carbohydrate metabolism.

In condensing this large subject into a small text and aiming for a wide audience, the authors ran the risk of undocumented statements. The serious student will occasionally

be frustrated by these. For example, in table 5.11 on page 90 the distinction is made that atrial fibrillation is a general sign of hyperthyroidism and that cutaneous vasodilatation and a systolic murmur due to increased blood flow are especially common in the elderly. The authors insert many tables, some of which are unnecessary. For example, the information in table 15.4, page 286 that lists the dosage of insulin used in diabetic acidosis could easily be described in the text.

The section on the parathyroids is good, but others are uneven. The bibliography is generally adequately selected and, as might be expected, has many British references. The authors should give the title of each reference to help the reader who wishes to pursue a subject.

The book is printed well, has the advantage of uniformity of style, and is easy to read. It is recommended for the student of nursing or pharmacy who wishes a review of this rapidly growing field and who does not have the time or desire to study a more complete text.

DUNCAN'S DISEASES OF METABOLISM. Vol. I: Genetics and Metabolism. Vol. II: Endocrinology and Nutrition. *Sixth Edition*. Philip K. Bondy, M.D., (Ed.); \$39.00, 1413 pages, 594 illustrations. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1969.

The extensive revision and reorganization by Bondy and