

# BOOK REVIEWS

DIABETES MELLITUS: THEORY AND PRACTICE, edited by Max Ellenberg, M.D., and Harold Rifkin, M.D., \$35.00, 1031 pages, New York, McGraw Hill Publishing Company, 1971.

This is an outstanding book. The authors have expanded the format and content of their first edition entitled *Clinical Diabetes Mellitus* published in 1962 into a comprehensive reference volume. In this second edition, the authors draw upon the expertise of many of the leading laboratory and clinical investigators in the field of diabetes mellitus to develop a review of the current status of information concerning the disease diabetes mellitus; its metabolic and biochemical background.

The volume covers forty-eight chapters and is over 1,000 pages with an extensive bibliography following each chapter. It provides the reader with the entry point into further investigation and study of every important component part of the disease entity diabetes mellitus. Drawing upon world experts in the field of any disease can be dangerous in that the component parts of a book thus authored can be fragmented and lack cohesiveness. The ability of the editors is witnessed by the fact that a continuous thread and relationship is established between the chapters, both in the information revealed and the total conceptual subject as presented. This reader particularly enjoyed the section on carbohydrate metabolism by Dr. Landau, the review of the synthesis of insulin by Dr. Schwartz, the mode of insulin action chapter by Dr. Levine and the concise review of insulin antagonists and insulin resistance by Drs. Berson and Yalow.

The initial section of the volume deals with carbohydrate, protein and lipid metabolism, followed by a review of hormonal and enzyme relationships in diabetes mellitus. The liver and basement membrane are then reviewed, followed by a discussion of experimental and spontaneous diabetes mellitus. The second section of the book concerns itself with insulin, its biosynthesis, activity and effect on metabolism. The latter half of the book devotes itself to the diagnosis of diabetes and a review of the various clinical manifestations of the disease. Chapters are dedicated to a review of hyperglycemia in the elderly, nonglucose melliturias, diabetic acidosis, nonketotic coma and other clinical entities that have been more accurately described in the last few years. The final section of the book deals with the management of diabetes and its various complications, with a review of the surgical aspects of diabetes and its management along with psychiatric effects of diabetes, employability, and summer camps. The final chapter by Dr. Mirsky presents a philosophical and thought provoking review with a look to the future.

This volume must be considered a landmark as a composite review of a single disease entity. It not only provides the student with a total account of diabetes mellitus, but provides the researcher and clinician with a ready reference to which he can refer for basic information and bibliography. The editors are to be congratulated on the excellence of their organization and the quality of the contributors they chose for this volume.

CLINICAL DIABETES AND ITS BIOCHEMICAL BASIS, by W. G. Oakley, D. A. Pyke, and K. W. Taylor, 786 pages, Oxford and Edinburgh, Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1968.

The title suggests a tremendous undertaking: cohesive, useful integration of the vast amount of new information about hormone and energy metabolism generated during the past decade into clinical application. The authors of this book approached the task by organizing a comprehensive reference to biochemical, hormonal, etiological, and therapeutic studies related to diabetes mellitus. The authorship was uniquely confined to staff members of one hospital, thus providing a unified approach to the multiple facets of diabetes and its complications. Original research contributions of the authors are critically integrated with the published works and concepts of others. Controversial subjects, such as the choice of treatment of diabetes, the effect of treatment on development of complications, and the management of diabetic retinopathy are well documented and often accompanied by the personal experience and opinions of the authors.

The thirty chapters are arranged such that the reader can quickly find theoretical and reference material or practical clinical information. Contributions by an ophthalmologist, obstetrician, and orthopedic surgeon add perspective, and an especially unique chapter is devoted to the care of the diabetic foot. An outline at the beginning of each chapter facilitates location of specific subjects.

A few deficiencies do stand out in this book, which is prefaced to be of hopeful value "to those engaged in a study of metabolic disorders." Notably deficient are the discussions of hyperosmolar nonketotic coma, lactic acidosis, obesity, nutrition, and dietary principles. The latter three deficits are especially meaningful in view of the current controversy over the use of oral hypoglycemic agents and re-emphasis of the importance of dietary management.

The book has practical usefulness and value to anyone caring for diabetics and is an excellent reference source for investigators in the field.

## Amplification

DIAEAZ 20(7) 449-512 (1971): These letters and numbers appear on the lower right-hand corner of the cover of the Journal at the request of *Biological Abstracts*, *Chemical Abstracts*, *Engineering Index*, *Nuclear Science Abstracts* and others as a contribution to improved citation reliability and standardization. Their inclusion follows the practice recommended in Section 2 of the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) *USA Standard for Periodicals: Format and Arrangement*, Z39 .1-1967. Section 2 of the ANSI *Standard* recommends that covers of primary journals should include a coded bibliographic strip for the "complete identification of the periodical in coded form to allow for rapid input of compact, unambiguous identification into an electronic or mechanical data processing system."