

BOOK REVIEWS

CURRENT TOPICS ON GLUCAGON, edited by M. Austoni, C. Scandellari, G. Federspil, and A. Trisotto. 226 pages, Padova, Italy, Cedam, Publisher, 1971.

This publication consists of papers and discussions presented at the Proceedings of the European Day on Glucagon, held in Padova in March, 1970. There are a total of fourteen papers, with nine papers in English and the remainder in several other languages. Summaries are in the same language as the papers and the discussions as well as introductory and concluding addresses are multilingual. Thirty-eight authors and participants, all from European countries, are represented. The papers deal with studies related to glucagon, including morphology, secre-

tion, and actions. Some of the papers reviewed previously published data, others appeared to deal with new observations.

Several factors limit the value of this book largely to investigators actively working with glucagon. First, the conference was held in March of 1970 but the book was not published until over a year later. Second, the lack of a uniform language for summaries and discussions makes interpretation of the data difficult for the nonlinguist. Third, most of the papers deal with subjects which have no clinical significance at the present time.

This book may be of value to those involved in glucagon research, otherwise will likely see limited distribution and use.

ABSTRACTS

Anderson, James H., Jr.; Byrd, Gerald W.; and Blackard, William G. (Dept. of Med. Louisiana State Univ. Sch. of Med., New Orleans, La.): HYPERRESPONSIVENESS TO TOLBUTAMIDE OF DOGS PRETREATED WITH DIAZOXIDE. *Metabolism* 20: 1023-30, November 1971.

Both epinephrine and diazoxide inhibit insulin secretion but only diazoxide inhibition of plasma IRI is reversed by tolbutamide. Administration of tolbutamide to dogs given diazoxide and glucose resulted in a twofold rise in plasma IRI while those receiving glucose alone showed no further rise in plasma IRI following tolbutamide. Hyperresponsiveness to tolbutamide in diazoxide-treated animals was completely blocked by beta adrenergic blockade with propranolol. This effect of tolbutamide on diazoxide-treated dogs cannot be attributed to increased insulin accumulation during diazoxide treatment but may be related to an accentuation of enzyme activity or accumulation of a metabolite in the beta cell. Inhibition of the hyperresponsiveness to tolbutamide by beta adrenergic blockade is compatible with the hypothesis that cyclic AMP accumulation is responsible for the increased plasma insulin response. C.R.S.

Bhai, Idrees; Nath, N.; and Nath, M. C. (Univ. Dept. of Biochem., Nagpur, India): HEMATOLOGICAL CHANGES IN RATS INJECTED WITH ACETOACETATE. *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.* 138:597-99, November 1971.

Hypochromic microcytic anemia is produced in rats injected with acetoacetate for ninety days. Moderate fall in erythrocytes, packed cell volume, and hemoglobin followed injections of acetoacetate. Anemia was probably due to deficiency of iron and its malutilization for hemoglobin synthesis. Decrease in hemoglobin synthesis was attributed to deficiency of B vitamins especially pyridoxine. Defect in iron transport and utilization could be due to deficiency of ascorbic acid and glutathione.

J.D.G.

Caren, Raymond; and Corbo, Lucille (Cedars-Sinai Med. Res. Inst. and Div. of Med., Cedars-Sinai Med. Center, Los Angeles, Calif.; and Dept. of Med., Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.): DEPRESSION OF PLASMA LIPID FRACTIONS AND INHIBITION OF PLATELET AGGREGATION BY ACTION OF GLUCAGON. *Metabolism* 20:1057-64, November 1971.

Intravenous glucagon caused significant depression of plasma