
BOOK REVIEWS

Clinical Hematology. By MAXWELL M. WINTROBE. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 2nd edition, 1946.

This second edition of Wintrobe's book published four years after the first is distinguished first of all by being so remarkably up to date that much of the material has not hitherto been published. Advances of only a month or so ago are noted and duly charted. There are, for example, complete discussions of folic acid therapy, the Rh factor and its importance in hemolytic disease of the newborn, the use of the nitrogen mustards in Hodgkin's disease and related diseases, the anemia of infection.

Even more than before, the book is the best single text of hematology in the English language. Its only rival, Naegeli's classic in German, is now outdated. Furthermore, it does not have Naegeli's dogmatism. The discussions are complete and well annotated with an unusually thorough bibliography, making the book highly acceptable, not only to the student but to the clinician and investigator. Charts, photomicrographs, and figures have been increased in number and greatly improved in quality over those of the first edition. The sections on sickle cell anemia and Mediterranean anemia ('thalassemia') are unusually good.

One of the few criticisms the reviewer finds with this otherwise remarkable book is in the matter of classification. Since anemia is designated as either macrocytic, normocytic, or microcytic, the hemolytic anemias, for example, are classified under the designation of the "normocytic anemias." As far as possible, it would seem more desirable to group the anemias on an etiologic basis. Thus they could be classified as (1) due to a deficiency of blood-building materials, (2) due to a disturbance in the bone marrow, or (3) due to excessive blood loss, whether by hemorrhage or undue hemolysis. Another possible criticism is in the use of Rhoad's term "refractory anemia" for those cases of anemia usually with leukopenia and thrombocytopenia, which fail to respond to liver extract, iron, and the vitamins. The brilliant results obtained with folic acid in some of these cases, the response to splenectomy in others, would seem to indicate that what was "refractory" yesterday may certainly not be so today. The 860 odd pages are crammed with information which is completely sound, up to the minute, and unusually well presented. The whole makes a volume which should be a *must* in every hospital medical library and on the shelves of the forward-looking physician.

El Diagnostico por la Punción Esternal. By JERÓNIMO FORTEZA BOVER, M.D. Ediciones Morata, Madrid, 1946. Pp. 317. 90 Pesetas.

This is an excellent monograph on the sternal puncture, its technic, and the results obtained from study of clinical hematologic material. The book is well written and is illustrated by numerous photomicrographs and colored plates. Of the numerous monographs on this subject, this seems to the reviewer one of the soundest. There is a nice intermingling of straight histology with such practical aspects as differential diagnosis of the various anemias, leukemias, leukopenias, and thrombocytopenias. An example of excellent description and sound judgment is the chapter, "Sternal Puncture in the Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis of the Hemorrhagic Purpuras." The megakaryocytic changes in idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura are excellently depicted and in keeping with recent observations (cf. *Blood* 1: 27, 1946). The differential diagnosis of the splenomegalies with particular reference to the sternal marrow puncture is systematically discussed. There is an excellent bibliography of about 600 complete references. Since the Spanish text is eminently simple the book can be heartily recommended even to English-reading students.