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BOOK REVIEW

ADVANCES IN EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY, VOLUME 26: PHARMACOLOGICAL CONTROL OF LIPID METABOLISM, edited by William L. Holmes, Rodolfo Paoletti, and David Kritchevsky, \$22.50, 359 pages. New York, Plenum Press, 1972.

This volume represents one of a series on a variety of subjects which are currently under intensive investigation in the biomedical community including topics in cell biology, endocrinology, hematology, and atherosclerosis. The book contains the texts of invited papers and reproductions of abstracts submitted to the Fourth International Symposium on Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism, which was held in Philadelphia, September 8-11, 1971. The status of knowledge is beautifully reviewed by the "leading lights" in lipid and lipoprotein chemistry and lipid and lipoprotein pharmacology and in heart disease prevention. Among the areas covered are: synthesis and secretion of lipoproteins, apolipoproteins, mechanisms of hyperlipoproteinemia, lipoprotein lipase, effect of drugs on triglyceride metabolism and treatment of hypercholesterolemia. The principal investigators of some of the

leading primary and secondary coronary prevention trials review their experiences. Thus, here one can find a great deal of the basic information on which the current biochemical and epidemiological concepts of coronary prevention are based. The inclusion of the abstracts gives one a preview of "coming attractions." The material is suitable for those with a modern biochemical and medical background who have had some interest in this area.

There is one glaring omission. Some of the invited speakers submitted very abbreviated abstracts of their presentations; this is unfortunate. Presumably not all readers will be thoroughly knowledgeable in the field; to this kind of reader, the utility of the book is diminished by these omissions. One further criticism of the book is its format and hence its cost. Since these are highly technical volumes, the materials in them have a rather short "half-life." Furthermore, similar reviews appear elsewhere. Therefore, although all of us enjoy seeing our words carved in granite, a paperback volume costing much less would have served equally well.