

# BOOK REVIEW

DIABETES AND METABOLIC DISORDERS: CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW, by J. A. Colwell, M.D., Ph.D., and G. Lizarralde, M.D. \$10.00, 120 pages. Flushing, N.Y., Medical Examination Publishing Co., 1975.

This small volume represents an interesting approach to its purpose of providing an overview of recent developments in diabetes mellitus and other metabolic disorders. A series of 415 questions and brief answers are presented, each with a reference to recent literature. The questions cover most aspects of diabetes and a number of aspects of metabolic genetic disorders; vitamin, lipid, and mineral metabolism; abnormalities in collagen; hypoglycemia; glycogen storage diseases; and abnormalities in bilirubin and porphyrin metabolism. The intent is that "this review will serve as a reminder of recent advances and as an impetus to the reader to consult the original source material when needed to improve his own understanding."

The authors are quite competent to undertake such a presentation and in general have selected pertinent current questions in these fields, together with answers drawn from reasonably up-to-date literature.

Any one reviewer could quibble with certain points which to him/her might seem to be errors of omission or commission. For example, in the answer to question 21, concerning the role of liver in glucose homeostasis, it is stated that "the membrane of the liver

cell is freely permeable to glucose." This, in fact does not appear to be true; rather there is evidence for a specific, carrier-mediated transport of glucose that is not insulin-dependent.

In question 130, regarding the use of intramuscular and intravenous insulin in treating diabetic ketoacidosis, there are several more current and practical references than the one given. In the section on lipid metabolism, there are a number of more up-to-date references than those used, including more recent evidence that clofibrate is not demonstrably effective in treating hyperlipidemia. In addition, although there is discussion of the relatively rare entity vitamin-D-dependent rickets, there is no mention of the more common inherited disorder, vitamin-D-resistant rickets.

There are also occasional typographical or editorial errors or omissions; for example, in the answer to question 259, it should read that type IV hyperlipoproteinemia patients *rarely* have severe insulin deficiency instead of, as it now reads, "*really* have severe insulin deficiency." Also, the index, at least in my copy, stops with the T's and thus, for example, does not index references to vitamins.

Over all, this book should be useful for the purposes for which it is intended, already referred to, but obviously is not a substitute for a more thorough search of the literature, both in textbooks and in recent journals, on any of these topics. T. FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, M.D.

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