
NEWS AND VIEWS

The third annual meeting of the Blood Club will be held Sunday, April 30, at Chalfonte Haddon Hotel, Atlantic City. The dinner and meeting are open to those interested in the field of hematology. The following program will be presented at 8 00 P.M. *ACTH and Cortisone in the Treatment of Leukemia and Allied Disorders*: George W. Thorn (Introduction); O. H. Pearson; M. M. Wintrobe; Sidney Farber; J. M. Stickney; general discussion. Cocktails (for holders of dinner tickets) will be served by courtesy of the Armour Laboratories at 5:30 P.M.; dinner will be at 6:30 P.M. Reservations for the dinner must be made before April 21 with Dr. Lawrence E. Young, Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester 7, New York. Dinner tickets may be obtained at the cocktail party. (Program Committee: Howard L. Alt, Clement A. Finch, Lawrence E. Young.)

BOOK REVIEWS

Haemoglobin. A Symposium Based on a Conference Held at Cambridge in June 1948 in memory of Sir Joseph Barcroft. Edited by F. J. W. HOUGHTON AND J. C. KENDREW. New York, Interscience Publishers, 1949. Pp 317.

The first section of this book is given over to tributes by friends and associates of Sir Joseph Barcroft, the Irish physiologist, who died in March 1947 after a long and fruitful life devoted largely to the study of respiration. The remainder of the book consists of twenty-eight papers on the structure and function of hemoglobin and closely related compounds. The contributors are physiologists and chemists in Europe and the United States who are working in Doctor Barcroft's particular field.

The several sections into which the book is divided are entitled: Reversible Reactions with Oxygen and Carbon Monoxide, Analysis and Amino Acid Composition, X-ray Crystallography, Physico-Chemical Properties, Biochemical and Physiological Aspects, Differences between Adult and Foetal Haemoglobin, Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology of Oxygen Carriers.

Among the personal reminiscences which precede the scientific papers in this book, some of Barcroft's first experiments in the role of the blood in respiration are described. It is interesting to compare his technics with the formidable mosaic of methods presented by the authors of this symposium. The approach to the subject is now almost entirely biochemical and biophysical. In this field, perhaps better than in others, may be traced an evolution of emphasis from a contemplation of the entire organism to an intense scrutiny of its ultimate components. One suspects, however, that after a thorough exploitation of the matters of synthesis, structure and decomposition, the field will again be dominated by the problem of the physiologist: the role of the respiratory enzymes in the total metabolism.

WILLIAM H. CROSBY

Les Hematodermies. By P. DE GRACIANSKY AND ANDRE PARAF. Paris, Masson & Cie, 1948. Pp. 210.

A French dermatologist, de Graciansky, and a French hematologist, Paraf, have collaborated in this work. The "hematodermias" include not only the cutaneous lesions complicating hematologic diseases but also all the cutaneous lesions with histologic infiltration by hematopoietic cells. The authors believe that in most cases, the cutaneous infiltrations are not metastatic or cutaneous emboli but represent metaplasia or abnormal hematopoietic differentiation of mesenchymal cells of the derma. An interesting classification is presented, including the leukoses, the leukosarcomata and the granulomata. Many cases are quoted in detail and there is a complete European bibliography. At the end, a brief chapter on treatment is presented. It is unfortunate that this chapter is so short. X-ray therapy is preferred to such chemical agents as nitrogen mustard or urethane. Prognosis in these cutaneous manifestations is uncertain.

The book is well written and is a good analytic study in a field in which much progress is required.

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