

BOOK REVIEWS

A GUIDE IN DIABETES. By Rosario Robillard, M. D., Physician in charge of the Diabetic Clinic, St. Luke's Hospital, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Montreal, Cloth. \$4.75, pp. 282 with illustrations. R. Robillard, 532 Cherrier St., Montreal, Canada, May 1955.

This book should be welcomed by French-speaking diabetic patients and physicians for it is the first of its kind to be written in the French language by a Canadian. The author successfully reaches his stated objective, the preparation for diabetic patients, medical practitioners and students and nurses of a relatively concise guide in diabetes with an outline of its treatment and a discussion of its complications. Throughout the book, the author emphasizes the importance of continuous instruction of diabetic patients and also tactfully indicates the needs of medical practitioners. Pitfalls in diagnosis and treatment of diabetes are presented. This book merits a place in the library of every physician with French-speaking patients in either Canada or the United States.

HYPOGLYCEMIA AND THE HYPOGLYCEMIC SYNDROME. By A. J. Kawvar, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Attending Physician Gastro-Enterology, Colorado General Hospital and Denver General Hospital, and Martin G. Goldner, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, State University of New York, Medical Center at New York; Director of Medicine, Jewish Sanitarium and Hospital for Chronic Diseases, Brooklyn, N. Y. \$3.00, pp. 67. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. The authors present a review of the literature based on 1953 selected publications including four by one of the authors. The book includes a brief historical review beginning with the observation of low blood sugar levels by Minkowski when he removed the liver from an ex-

perimental animal. The latest publications referred to appeared in 1953. The chapter titles include: "The Causes of Hypoglycemia," "Differential Diagnosis of the Hypoglycemic Syndrome," and "Management of the Hypoglycemia and of the Hypoglycemic Syndrome."

A table showing the fasting blood sugar level of various species is interesting. In most mammals, the blood sugar is usually about the same as in man; exceptions include the ruminants with the blood sugar value about half this amount, and the pig with a blood sugar range of 40 to 200. The blood sugar of birds is high (chick, duck and goose 150 to 200, pigeon 120 to 140, turkey 175 to 210). The blood sugar of cold-blooded animals varies; the figures for fish are 100 to 120 and for frogs 30 to 45.

PRACTICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY. By Lewis M. Hurxthal, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine, Labey Clinic. In cooperation with A. Seymour Parker, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine, Labey Clinic, and Hirsch Sulkowitch, M.D., Research Associate, Labey Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts. \$7.00, pp. 318. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., distributed solely by The Blakiston Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, N. Y., 1955.

This book which is the first-published volume in a series of *Handbooks for the General Practitioner* presents in twelve chapters concise discussions of the various diseases of the endocrine glands, including endocrine disorders of infancy and childhood, gynecomastia, hirsutism, the use of steroid and other hormones, and office endocrine laboratory tests. The short readable text containing seventeen illustrations constitutes a practical scientific handbook of endocrinology. As the chief author indicates in the introduction, more details about any certain aspects of endocrinology can be found when necessary by consulting standard textbooks. In the reviewer's opinion this volume is the best of the books on endocrinology that have been prepared for the general practitioner.