
BOOK REVIEW

ROBERT SCHWARTZ, M.D., *Editor*

FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY. *By B. S. Leavell and O. A. Thorup.* Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders Co., 1966, 600 pp., \$12.50.

PRINCIPLES OF HEMATOLOGY. *By J. W. Linman.* New York, The Macmillan Co., 1966, 621 pp.

I suppose that most of us engaged in hematology have had the yen at one time or another to write the truly definitive text encompassing that variegated field. Certainly every medical publisher wants ardently to have a "hematology" in his stable. Unfortunately for them, there stands Wintrobe's book, looming like a great mountain peak high above all else. Thus, anyone writing a new text invariably makes his bow to Wintrobe and states his reason for yet another text. Both Leavell and Thorp, and Linman, the authors of the two new texts reviewed here, preface their books in almost identical words by saying that they are designed primarily for students, practitioners, and the house staff of hospitals—the implication being that Wintrobe's book is chiefly for the cognoscenti. Leavell and Thorp, whose book is now in its second edition, have put together a well-illustrated and carefully conceived text; emphasis is laid on the mechanisms responsible for manifestations of disease. The book is up to date, comprehensive enough, and eminently readable; it is certainly a useful work. Its excellent bibliography helps to make up for the lack of a more comprehensive discussion in various areas. There can be no question that this book lives up to its promise of being a valuable text for medical students and the always "busy practitioner."

Linman's book does not come off so well. It is inadequately illustrated and tends to be rather dogmatic and dull. Thus, Wintrobe's *Hematology* seems to survive these and other challenges and unless a several-volume affair (i.e., a "handbook") is ever put together, there is little to worry about in Salt Lake City at this time.—*William Dameshek, M.D.*

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

I have read with interest the stimulating analytical review entitled "Hemostatic Homeostasis" published by Dr. Theodore H. Spaet in Vol. 28, No. 1, of *Blood*, 1966. I enjoyed a rare treat: reading a lucid exposition of such a complex subject as the hemostatic mechanism as it appears in 1966. How much more complex are the facts now as compared to those known twenty years ago!

I have been interested for many years in the homeostatic regulation of hemostatic mechanism. In a paper published

in 1943 ("On Hemorrhagic Dyscrasias and their Classification." *Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America*, Herald Square Press, New York, N. Y.) I discussed the principle and concept of such a regulatory function, and introduced, to my knowledge for the first time, the Cannon principle of homeostasis to the hemostasis phenomenon and the term "hemostatic homeostasis." As pointed out in this paper, "An important step toward a better understanding and more satisfactory classification of hemorrhagic disorders might be achieved if the defense mechanism against bleeding is viewed in the light of the homeostatic

principles established for other body functions: when one of the hemostatic factors happens to become involved, compensatory reactions on the part of the unaffected mechanisms come into play in order to maintain the hemostatic equilibrium. The principles of homeostasis as laid down by Cannon for vegetative functions might be advantageously applied to the hemostatic phenomena: the principle of *hemostatic homeostasis*. . . .”

The paper was based on a series of Post-graduate courses in hematology that I gave

at the time at Montefiore Hospital, New York City. In the following decade, during my service as hematologist at the hospital, I discussed the subject further in the light of newly acquired knowledge. It is gratifying now to see that the principle of “hemostatic homeostasis” is being so skillfully applied to the much more complex situation of 1966.

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