

## BOOK REVIEWS

THE THYROID: A FUNDAMENTAL AND CLINICAL TEXT. Edited by Sidney C. Werner, M.D., with sixty contributors. \$20.00, pp. 789, 1st edition. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1955.

This well-written, authoritative book is the outstanding monograph of the many that have been written about the thyroid gland, and it probably will become the standard textbook in its field.

The subject material is divided into three main parts. Part one is an excellent description of the microscopic anatomy, the physiology, and the biochemistry of the normal thyroid gland, as well as the relationship of the gland to the hypothalamus and to the thyrotropic hormone from the pituitary gland. Part two is a practical interpretation of the basal metabolic rate, the serum-precipitable iodine and the newer butanol-extractable iodine determinations in relation to thyroid function and dysfunction. Also, there is discussion of the physical aspects of the use of radioiodine, of instrumentation and the various clinical radioiodine procedures. Part three, comprising two-thirds of the text, describes the various diseases of the thyroid gland. There are chapters on thyroid embryogeny, surgical anatomy, pathology of the various diseases and of the nontoxic goiter. Particularly worth while are the sections on physical examination of the thyroid, surgical and radioiodine treatment of thyroid cancer, clinical symptoms and signs of hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and acute nonsuppurative thyroiditis. Also, there are three pages describing the association of diabetes and hyperthyroidism. Dr. Francis Lukens points out in this discussion that uncontrolled diabetes mellitus per se may elevate the basal metabolic rate as well as clinically simulating hyperthyroidism.

The reviewer believes that most of the information in this first edition is representative of the beliefs of most other authorities in the field of thyroid diseases. The one major exception to current views is the concept of the nature of the true toxic nodular goiter. Exception may well be taken to the following statements:

Toxic nodular goiter is resistant to all forms of therapy including surgery.

Recurrence (of hyperthyroidism) after subtotal thyroidectomy may be more common in toxic nodular than in toxic diffuse goiter.

Toxic nodular goiter, in turn, has two variants: a relatively rare one in which a single hyperfunctioning nodule is the source of trouble (correct), and the other in which the parenchyma of the thyroid is hyperactive and the contained nodules presumably are those

of coincidental nontoxic nodular goiter.

Severe eye changes have followed surgical and radioiodine treatment of true toxic nodular goiter.

Most clinicians experienced in thyroid disease agree with H. S. Plummer's view that the hyperthyroidism in true toxic multinodular goiter is due to an activity of one or more nodules, and which has been shown by radioiodine scintigrams usually to be due to one hyperfunctioning nodule. It is not associated with eye signs unless the hyperthyroidism is due to Graves' disease with hyperplasia of internodular thyroid parenchyma. Also, true toxic nodular goiter is readily and effectively treated by surgery with a rate of recurrence of less than one-half per cent.

Moreover, this reviewer cannot agree with the statement:

Measurement of the cholesterol has therefore been utilized as an aid to the diagnosis of hypothyroidism, but has proved unreliable for much the same reasons that have discredited it as a diagnostic aid in a number of other diseases.

While the serum cholesterol test has its limitations it is still a useful aid in the diagnosis of hypothyroidism.

Despite these very few limitations it is to be highly recommended as a source book, especially for the general internist, the endocrinologist, and the thyroid surgeon.

FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOCHEMISTRY IN CLINICAL MEDICINE. By Niels C. Klendshoj, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, Director of the Division of Toxicology, University of Buffalo School of Medicine, Buffalo, New York. \$7.75, pp. 279, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, August, 1953.

The author of this volume is Director of the Department of Biochemistry at the Buffalo General Hospital and holds appointments in Pathology and in Toxicology at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine. In the work, atomic and molecular structure, acid-base balance, body fluids, carbohydrate, fat, protein, nutrition, the liver, kidney, the nervous system and each of the endocrines are discussed in individual chapters. Structural formulae are frequent (unfortunately errors are present in some of them), but this is not a text on laboratory methods nor in clinical biochemistry. Selected references varying in number from 2 to 23 are presented at the end of each chapter. The index consists of approximately 800 entries.

The wide range of subjects covered in limited space permits a quick but necessarily superficial review of the biochemistry which underlies many aspects of clinical medicine.