

BOOK REVIEWS

THE LIPIDS—THEIR CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY (Volume II). By Harry J. Deuel, Jr., M.D., Dean, Graduate School, and Professor of Biochemistry, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California. \$25.00, pp. 919, Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, 1955.

The chemistry of lipids has been covered in Volume I of this series and the present volume deals with certain aspects of lipid biochemistry. This comprehensive treatise was originally intended to be published in two volumes, but the wealth of biochemical material necessitated expansion to three volumes. Volume II takes up the digestion, absorption, transport, and storage of lipids, and Volume III will include material on their biosynthesis, metabolism, oxidation, and nutritional value. The unfortunate recent death of the author will not interfere with publication of Volume III. According to advice from the publisher, satisfactory arrangements have been made for its completion, and it is scheduled for publication next year.

In these days of well-nigh explosive advances in biochemistry, few are the hardy individuals who have the ability and fortitude to attempt a work of this monumental scope. It is a tribute to the author's standing in the field and to his perseverance that he has succeeded in producing a first-rate monograph which, I believe, will remain a landmark in the lipid field for many years. It is refreshing to find a work of this magnitude, written by one author in a clear, lucid, and informative fashion, instead of the usual collection of separate reviews, each written by a different author. Of especial value to the reader are the numerous descriptions of experimental procedures, and the documentation of data in a large number of tables. The collection and tabulation of data alone must have represented a tremendous task. The inclusion of older, as well as newer material, provides an historical perspective which adds greatly to the value of the subjects covered.

The first section deals with the digestion and absorption of lipids. The first chapter describes the enzymes concerned with the digestion of lipids. This subject is rather broadly interpreted; of the sixty-seven pages devoted to it, thirty-eight pages are taken up with choline esterases and choline acetylase. The role of bile is covered in two chapters. Particularly valuable is the extensive treatment of choleic acid complexes. One of the two chapters on lipid absorption contains a fascinating

and informative description of the experimental physiological and surgical procedures used in measurement of lipid absorption.

Of great value to nutritionists is the exhaustive treatment of the digestibility of fats and other lipids. Perhaps of greatest immediate interest to clinicians is the extensive treatment of the subject of blood lipids, covered in eight chapters of 170 pages. Topics of particular current importance are the lipoproteins, and the factors influencing their amounts and types and their relation to atherosclerosis. The interesting and significant effects of the endocrines on blood lipid levels are thoroughly discussed.

The remaining two sections are devoted to the lipid composition of animals as a whole and to specific tissues and their secretions. Especially noteworthy is an extensive discussion of conditions related to fatty liver, to which seventy pages are given, the factors involved and the mechanisms concerned in milk-fat formation, the distribution of lipids in man as a function of endocrine imbalance, and an excellent, though brief discussion of the physiological significance and composition of adipose tissue. Other portions of particular interest to the clinician are the sections devoted to the various lipid storage diseases and to the various obesities.

The printing and binding are of excellent quality and the price of \$25.00 is not high by present day standards, considering the size and scope of the work.

MEDICAL PROGRESS, 1956. Edited by Morris Fishbein, M.D. \$5.50, pp. 389, Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, March 1956.

The 1956 edition of *Medical Progress*, a review of medical advances in 1955, is published by the Blakiston Division of McGraw-Hill Book Company. The editor, Dr. Morris Fishbein, of recognized experience, has selected in this fourth volume of a series of annual publications, an outstandingly competent staff of twenty-nine contributors among whom are included, to name but a few, Elliott P. Joslin, William A. Brams, R. B. H. Gradwohl, Edward S. Judd, Perrin H. Long and Lewis M. Hurxthal. There are twenty-one chapters, mainly on the branches of Internal Medicine but also (and what may make it even more valuable for any physician) including chapters on Gynecology, Surgery, Laboratory Procedures, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Psychiatry, Orthopedic Surgery and Ear, Nose and Throat conditions.

The contributors have written in an interesting style and the impression is not of a mere summary of outstanding articles but of thought and integration so that the reader is privileged to have the benefit of the evalu-