
NEWS AND VIEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BANKS ANNOUNCES SITE OF THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

The Third Annual Meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks is currently scheduled for October 12, 13, and 14 at The Stevens Hotel in Chicago. The central location was chosen so that the meeting will be more accessible to members from all points of the country. The program which is being planned will be one which will attract blood bank personnel, hospital executives, pathologists, clinicians, surgeons, and other people interested in the procurement, preservation, and administration of blood and blood derivatives. Further information may be obtained by writing the Office of the Secretary, 3301 Junius Street, Dallas 1, Texas.

BOOK REVIEWS

Normal Values in Clinical Medicine. F. W. SUNDERMAN AND F. BOERNER. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1949. Pp. 845, illustrations 237.

Under the direction of the two authors, a distinguished group of writers, mostly from institutions in Philadelphia, has collaborated in the meritorious task of determining normal values in clinical medicine. The book represents a definite improvement over similar work published in this country and abroad, both in the extent and quality of the material. In a total of eighteen sections, normal measurements and normal figures are given for the various organic systems and functions. An extremely valuable section, including food values, drugs and their doses, isotopes and life and actual tables, concludes the book. This section presents a short but clear and substantial chapter on statistical methods. Little can be said of this book which would not sound praise. All sections are well treated, but some deserve particular mention. Thus, the chapters dealing with the digestive system and with the endocrines are usually good. Readers interested in limited sections of the book will, I am sure, find omissions, and may criticize the limited attention which has been given, in some sections, to the functional examination of a given organ or system. But, as a whole, the volume is extremely useful and should enjoy well deserved success. The format is elegant and the printing carefully done. In the copy received by the reviewer, however, pages 497 to 528 are displaced, possibly a fault limited to only a few copies and in any event a minor defect in an otherwise admirable work.—*M. Stefanini*

Der Morbus Besnier-Boeck-Schaumann. Chronische Epitheloidzellige Reticuloendotheliose oder Granulomatose. (Second enlarged edition.) STEFAN J. LEITNER. Basel, Switzerland, Benno Schwabe Verlag, Illustrations 90.

This book is based upon the clinical observation and histologic studies of 34 cases of sarcoidosis (Besnier-Boeck-Schaumann disease). As physician-in-chief of a pulmonary disease sanatorium in Switzerland, the author naturally gives a full discussion of sarcoidosis of the lung. Nevertheless, the extensive literature of the disease, in all its aspects, in general is adequately recorded. This careful and valuable study is illustrated with excellent clinical and histologic pictures.

In the discussion of similar granulomatous diseases, beryllium pulmonary sarcoidosis and torula granulomatosis are not mentioned. There is furthermore insufficient emphasis upon the fact that sarcoidosis (Boeck-Schaumann) is a systemic disease which may involve only one organ (monosymptomatic form), or several organs, or may occur as a generalized form affecting almost the entire body.

In summarizing the pathogenesis of the disease, the author favors a tuberculous etiology. This opinion

is not shared by many students of the disease in this country (see D. G. FREIMAN: Review of sarcoidosis. *New England J. Med.* 239: 664, 714, 1948).

Dr. Leitner's book gives extensive information to anyone interested in sarcoidosis. The typography and format of the book are excellent—*Siegfried J. Thannhauser*

Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn. M. M. PICKLES. Springfield, Ill. Charles C Thomas, 1949. Pp. 181. \$4.50

An author must needs be bold to venture into this field with a new book, a field that has been swept for ten years by the crossfires of hematology, obstetrics, immunology, genetics, pediatrics, and forensic medicine, and that has been bombarded by the errors and enthusiasms of those who seek priority and the polemics of those who defend it. More than bold, the author must be armed with the authority of personal experience and shielded by knowledge of the experience of others. The author, at this particular time, might also be required by a nice diplomacy to use in parallel two systems of notation: the ideograms of the Fisher theory and the hieroglyphics of Wiener.

Dr. Pickles is such an author, and her book is in many respects the best exposition of the Rh problem to date. It comes at a fortunate time, for this is, in a sense, the end of an era. Hemolytic disease of the newborn has been created from a number of antiquated syndromes: Hydrops fetalis, macerated fetus, icterus gravis neonatorum, kernicterus, severe anemia of the newborn and erythroblastosis fetalis. They are all manifestations of one disease. A common etiology was demonstrated when the Rh blood groups were discovered and the intricate pattern of their inheritance was revealed. The clinical significance of the immunized Rh negative person became evident, together with the importance of the Rh groups in transfusion and pregnancy. In few fields of medicine does the "practical" depend so immediately upon the "theoretic." There still remain a great many unanswered questions which may be summed up in one statement—that even in the best of hands, 10 per cent of infants with hemolytic disease of the newborn still die.

We are at the end of an era not in the sense that covers can be placed on the Rh problem, but rather in the sense that enough has been learned of the Rh mechanisms to make a coherent picture of the large body of diversely accumulated data.

In a succinct and judicious book, Dr. Pickles has done precisely that.—*William H. Crosby*

Congenital Anomalies of the Heart and Great Blood Vessels. By THOMAS J. DRY, ROBERT L. PARKER, H. MILTON ROGERS, JESSE E. EDWARDS, HOWARD B. BURCHELL AND ARTHUR H. BULBULIAN, Springfield, Ill. Charles C Thomas, 1949. \$4.50.

In 1908, Maude Abbott gave her first comprehensive analysis of congenital heart disease. She had the vision that an era of cardiovascular surgery would follow. However, her contribution did not assume its fullest practical value until 1939 when a new era in cardiology was born. In that year Gross described his first successful closure of a patent ductus arteriosus, and this was followed by the first operation for coarctation of the aorta by Crafoord and by Gross in 1944 and 1945, respectively, and by the now famous Blalock operation for the tetralogy of Fallot in 1944.

Because of these and other advances in cardiovascular surgery constantly being made, it has become imperative that the general practitioner, the internist, cardiologist and pediatrician have a greater and more complete understanding of congenital heart disease. The monograph under review is timely and instructive. Except for Helen B. Taussig's book (*Congenital Malformation of the Heart*, New York, the Commonwealth Fund, 1947), there has been, in the reviewer's opinion, no so outstanding contribution in recent years to the clinical understanding of congenital heart disease. Dry and his associates have incorporated the pathologic and clinical aspects of sixteen of the most frequently seen congenital anomalies. Each one is presented in a short, concise manner with the principal clinical features. The two-page spread on each lesion includes beautiful color photographs of a model of the heart, and lesion, the pathologic specimen in black and white, a diagram of the intracardiac circulation, a representative electrocardiogram and a chest roentgenogram of the patient.

The authors include a brief historical sketch of famous scientists who have contributed to our knowledge of congenital anomalies of the heart. The book is recommended for all students who are interested in congenital heart disease. There is a need for more of such studies.—*Walter Zimladl*