
BOOK REVIEWS

TECHNIQUES IN BLOOD GROUPING. *Ivor Dunsford and C. C. Bowley*. Regional Blood Transfusion Center, Sheffield. C. C. Thomas Co., Springfield, Ill. and J. J. Gray, Publishers, Edinburgh, 1955. 250 pp. \$4.50

No previous attempt has been made to compile a comprehensive set of the techniques needed by those engaged in blood grouping work. This new manual, written by experts of international reputation, is designed primarily as a practical guide for use on the laboratory bench. The 80 techniques detailed are of strictly practical application, having developed over several years in the course of routine work at the Sheffield Regional Blood Transfusion Centre. The manual is divided into three sections: Section I contains a lucid description of the basic principles of red cell antigen and antibody behavior upon which blood grouping techniques are based, and suggestions regarding organization and methods in the laboratory. Section II gives step by step details of systematic techniques. Section III contains a glossary of terms and symbols used in blood group serology. In addition to meticulous description of techniques useful in blood grouping, ante-natal serology and blood bank organization, the authors have devoted considerable space to techniques used in the preparation, storage, and standardization of reagents. The unusual binding of the manual ensures that the leaves lie flat when opened at a given page, enabling the technician to consult the text as often as need be during his or her investigations. The author's emphasis on the necessity of positive and negative controls in all serologic tests will be of special value for the beginner at the laboratory bench, who commits sins of omission in this regard only too often. Directors who are beginning the organization of a new blood grouping laboratory will also find this manual invaluable.—*Hugh Fudenberg, M.D.*

LA TERAPIA DELLE LEUCEMIE. *Paolo Introzzi and Giuseppe Marinone*. Pavia, Edizioni di Haematologica, 1955. pp. XIII & 635, illustrated. No price.

The task which the authors of this monumental work set themselves was to make it the most complete account of the therapy of human leukemia which has yet been published anywhere in the world. In this they may well have succeeded. The international literature has been covered with extraordinary thoroughness, and lists of references extend to over 80 pages. The history of the various therapeutic agents, their predicated modes of action, their indications and contraindications, beneficial and harmful effects have all been faithfully set out in detail. A second Part covers the practical aspects of treatment and recommends therapeutic regimes not only for the different cytological types of leukemia but also for their several stages. This is profusely illustrated with case histories, charts and clinical photographs.

It is evident that the searcher after "literature" has here a source book of the highest importance. Whether the work will fulfil the hope of its authors and constitute a physician's practical guide to treatment, is much more doubtful. In this age of swiftly changing therapy it seems hazardous to commit to-day's views to the comparative permanence of a large book. Again the very wealth of the documented material, and the obvious need to ready it for publication as speedily as possible, appear in this instance to have curtailed the critical sifting of the evidence which a dogmatic presentation demands. While this work will therefore be useful in libraries as a source of references covering the period to the middle of 1954, its value to hematologists and internists will scarcely be commensurate with its bulk and presumed price.—*F. W. Gunz*.

LES GAMMA-GLOBULINES ET LA MEDICINE DES ENFANTS. Seminar held in Paris December 2-4, 1954, under the Presidency of Professor A. Tiselius. 298 pp. 2000 Fr. (about \$5.) Paper Covers. (In French.)

There are ever increasing numbers of seminars, workshops, conferences, study groups, special meetings, etc., etc., all usually dealing with one relatively small problem. Most of these meetings have various mechanized arrangements for taking down all the words of

the various participants, who then spend more or less time in editing their rather informal pronouncements. Sooner or later, a proceedings volume appears. Sometimes it contains new material; more often than not, the articles presented are "rehashes", since how can the men who flit from conference to seminar to workshop possibly have time to prepare careful papers based on new material? Perhaps the greatest value of these meetings is the face-to-face contacts which ensue. The ideas generated in these discussions may conceivably have some future value in the laboratory—that is providing the investigator can spare sufficient time in his laboratory before the next seminar. It should be said right off that these rather caustic remarks apply as well to the reviewer as to many others. As one goes about, one cannot help but become increasingly cognizant of the great proportion of time physicians engaged in investigative medicine are being asked to spend at more and more conferences. It seems that a thorough knowledge of plane and train schedules is almost as important as the development of a new technique or the undisturbed study of a difficult problem.

These remarks should not in any way detract from the value of the present volume which has in it some excellent material.—*W. D.*

LA MALATTIA MICRODREPANOCITICA. *E. Silvestroni and I. Bianco*. Il Pensiero Scientifico Editor—Roma, 1955. 138 pp. (In Italian) English Summary.

This is an excellent little monograph summarizing the authors' work in "microdrepanocytic disease" or sickle cell—thalassemia. This condition is of great genetic interest since it is the first disorder to have been described in which there is "double heterozygosity for two non-allelic factors", i.e. two different and independent genes. It is of interest that the combination of two mild disorders (thalassemia minor and sickle cell trait) will produce sickle cell anemia of a relatively mild form, but more severe than the sickle cell trait. A similar situation is seen in sickle cell—Hemoglobin C disease etc. How to explain the presence of the sickle cell gene in Southern Italy, or for that matter in certain parts of Greece, Turkey, and India is by no means clear. Is the sickle cell gene necessarily diagnostic of negroid "blood" or may it occur independently in some purely Caucasoid groups? Or *are* there any pure racial groups? One hopes that the present widespread interest in the hemoglobinopathies will eventually lead to an answer to some of these questions.—*W. D.*

INTRODUCTION AUX MALADIES HEMORRAGIQUES. *P. Chevallier*. Paris. G. Doin & Cie, 1956. 66 pp. 600 fr. (about \$1.50)

This little booklet devoted to the hemorrhagic disorders could not have been written in simpler fashion and is evidently intended as an A-B-C book so that even the least sapient can without too much difficulty learn something about these conditions.—*W. D.*

THE LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF COAGULATION DEFECTS. American Lecture Series. *Pietro de Nicola*. Springfield, Ill. Charles C. Thomas, 1956. 240 pp.

This book of 240 pages discusses the clotting factors and the various conditions associated with their reduction. There are large and excellent sections devoted to the general and specific diagnosis of coagulation defects. The technical section of 30 plus pages is adequate. The rest is taken up with conclusions, bibliography and index. There are many good diagrams and charts.—*W. D.*

CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY OF PTERIDINES. Ciba Foundation Symposium. *Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Margaret P. Cameron*. Boston, Little, Brown & Co. 1955.

The pteridines have become very important in general and hematologic biochemistry, as witness the advances made in knowledge of folic acid and the folic acid antagonists. The high standards of excellence of the Ciba Symposia are well maintained in this volume.—*W. D.*

BLUTGERINNUNGSFAKTOREN. *Erwin Deutsch*. Vienna. Franz Deuticke. 1955. 300 pp. About \$9. (In German)

This is a comprehensive and highly authoritative work, capped by about 1700 references, on the blood clotting factors.—*W. D.*

DIE ORGANPUNKTION IN DER KLINISCHEN DIAGNOSTIK. *H. Ludin*. Basel and New York. S. Karger. 1955. 211 pp. Sf. 33.80 (about \$8.50)

In this book, the author puts "under one roof" bone marrow, lymph node, spleen, and liver punctures. Technics are well described and there are many excellent photomicrographs.—*W. D.*

DEXTRAN. ITS PROPERTIES AND USE IN MEDICINE. *J. R. Squire, J. P. Bull, W. d'A. Maycock and C. R. Ricketts*. Springfield, Ill. C. C. Thomas. 1955. pp. 91.

This is a good little monograph on an important blood substitute. There is no mention here of hemorrhagic reactions or of thrombocytopenia.—*W. D.*

BLUTSTILLUNG, BLUTERSATZ UND BLUTTRANSFUSION. *H. Wildegans and H. Guderley*. Berlin, 1955. Walter De Gruyter & Co. 163 pp. About \$6.

This little book tells of methods for stopping severe hemorrhage, and then presents some rather amateurish stuff on blood transfusions and blood substitutes. It is hard to see why this material had to be published.—*W. D.*

BOOKS RECEIVED

COLLAGEN DISEASES. *J. H. Talbott and R. M. Ferrandis*. New York and London. Grune & Stratton, 1956. 232 pp. \$6.50.

ADRENAL FUNCTION IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN. A Symposium. *Edited by L. I. Gardner*. New York and London. Grune & Stratton, 1956. 221 pp. \$6.75.

CYTOLOGY OF THE BLOOD AND BLOOD-FORMING ORGANS. *Marcel Bessis*. New York and London. Grune & Stratton, 1956. 629 pp. (*Translated by Eric Ponder*).

DICTIONARY OF DIETETICS. *Rhoda Ellis*. New York. Philosophical Library, Inc., 1956. 152 pp. \$6.00.

CIBA FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM jointly with THE PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY and THE BRITISH PHARMACOLOGICAL SOCIETY on HISTAMINE. *Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and C. M. O'Connor*. Boston. Little, Brown and Company, 1956. 472 pp. \$9.00.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEDICINE. Volume 7. *Edited by D. A. Ryland and W. Creger*. Stanford, California. Annual Reviews, Inc., 1956. 611 Pp. \$7.00

CANCER CYTOLOGY AND CYTOCHEMISTRY. *Roy Waldo Miner, Editor*. Vol. 63. New York. Academy of Sciences, 1956. Pp. 1033-1462. \$4.50.