

BOOK REVIEWS

LIVER: STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION. By Hans Popper, M.D., Ph.D., and Fenton Schaffner, M.S., M.D. \$20.00, pp. 777, The Blakiston Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1957.

Dr. Popper's and Dr. Schaffner's first edition has been eagerly anticipated since its announcement. It not only completely fulfills all expectations but also exceeds them. It will prove an invaluable aid to all students of hepatology.

The work is organized under seven broad headings: (1) normal structure and function, (2) pathologic phenomena of the hepato-biliary system, (3) clinical studies of hepatic function and structure, (4) diffuse diseases of the liver, (5) focal diseases of the liver, (6) tumors of the liver and biliary tree, and (7) internal and external environment of the liver. An appendix summarizes principles of diagnosis of liver disease using functional and structural observations. An extensive bibliography of 3,735 untitled references is arranged alphabetically thus obviating the need for an index of authors. The subject-index is comprehensive and cross-referenced. Two hundred and four diagrams or photomicrographs and sixty-two tables adequately supplement the text. The photomicrographs are of the excellent quality that has characterized Dr. Popper's publications in the past, although some may have suffered in the process of reproduction. Inclusion of many of Hans Elias' three-dimensional reconstructions add interest and clarity.

Coming from an eminent pathologist and expert internist, one might have expected greater emphasis on disease and less on anatomy, physiology and biochemistry. The latter sections are welcome and should be valuable to nonspecialists in these areas for rapid reviews of modern concepts relating to the liver. But in view of Dr. Popper's broad experience and continental background, this reviewer was disappointed to find that the pathology of the liver is not presented in exhaustive and comprehensive detail as in Henke and Lubarsch, for example. An up-to-date English counterpart of the latter work is as badly needed for liver as for other organs. The space devoted to normal aspects of the liver and more purely clinical considerations has not allowed Dr. Popper to give us this type of pathologic *arbeit*, of which we know he is fully capable.

Within the space available, however, the pathologic aspects of liver disease are admirably presented. Clinical aspects are clearly described, including summaries of technics in fine print. The brief chapter (six pages) on liver biopsy contains the distilled essence of both

authors' experiences. Much of the confusion in current concepts of cirrhosis, postnecrotic scarring and chronic hepatitis is clarified in the section on diffuse liver disease. The section on tumors, although limited in scope, is accurate and clear. In our opinion, the weakest portion of the book is the last, in which an attempt has been made to relate the liver in various states to other organs (hematopoietic system, etc.) and even to "stress".

The book is remarkably free of typographical errors for a first edition. The two-column format somewhat alleviates the size and ponderosity of the volume and the print is clear and legible. The incorporation of an addendum at the end, in which are included recent advances published while the rest of the book was in print, has successfully kept it up-to-the-minute as of its publication date. This novel technic should be more widely adopted by authors and publishers of books in rapidly advancing areas of medical investigation.

Popper and Schaffner deserves a place on bookshelves of clinician, pathologist and student. We expect this work will soon take its rightful position as leader in its field and pass through many editions.

COUNSELING IN MEDICAL GENETICS. By Sheldon C. Reed. \$4.00, pp. 268, W. B. Saunders & Co., Philadelphia, 1955.

This book, though small, should prove invaluable to the physician who is aware of genetic problems as they affect clinical medicine and will, I believe, stimulate such awareness in others. It is well written and thoroughly indexed. Chapter Three, "A Philosophy for Counseling," is an excellent expression of the ideal attitude a physician should take. Because of the nature of the subject and the brevity of the book, many physicians truly interested in the proper counseling of their patients will have to refer such patients to a counseling center in many instances, but the purpose of the book is not to cover the entire field but rather to stimulate an interest and to show the possibilities in genetic counseling.

Not all geneticists will agree with some of the methods of inheritance as postulated by the author and not all physicians interested in the subject will agree with his selection of diseases. Many of the more common clinical problems which have a genetic background are omitted but this does not detract from the book as a whole, since to cover everything would require several volumes. The main function of the book as mentioned above has been more than adequately fulfilled and this volume should find a useful place in the library of every family physician.