
BOOK REVIEWS

Pathologisch-anatomische Untersuchungen über Leberzirrhose bei Säuglingen und Kleinkindern (infantile Leberzirrhose) mit endemischer Häufung. By HERMANN GÖGL. Vienna, Wilhelm Maudrich, 1947.

This monograph, by Dr. Hermann Gögl of Innsbruck, is an interesting study of 24 cases of infantile cirrhosis in which the general picture is that of a chronic hepatitis with diffuse cirrhosis in varying degree. Other changes serving to characterize these cirrhoses from a histologic standpoint are the presence of eosinophilic and sometimes basophilic granules within the liver cells, and at times of inclusion-like bodies, suggesting a virus infection. Gögl points out that this disease is common in the Tyrol and Vorarlberg regions of Austria, but more particularly around the town of Kitzbühl where it seems to have endemic character. He obviously leans toward a virus etiology of his own cases but for lack of evidence is obliged to leave the question open as to exact etiologic agents and the relation to epidemic hepatitis.

In addition to the careful clinical, anatomic, and histologic descriptions, the latter supplemented with reasonably satisfactory photomicrographs, there is an extensive bibliography on the subject of cirrhosis in infancy and early childhood.

C. J. WATSON

Der Blutspender. By H. WILLENEGGER AND R. BOITEL. Benno Schwabe & Co., Basel (Switzerland), 1947. Pp. 197, 10 francs.

This is a unique work, as books about blood transfusions and blood banks go. The literature to date has emphasized blood groups and transfusion reactions, the management of blood banks and the latest discoveries arising from physico-chemical manipulations of whole blood and its constituents. This book, however, treats of the blood donor, the fountainhead and mainstay of all this activity and the forgotten man of most publications. The uniqueness of the point of view alone would justify the writing of such a book. This small volume, however, has even more to recommend it. Although the main interest centers about the blood donor and the social significance of his service in contemporary society, the scope of the work is wider and comprises many of the problems accompanying the therapeutic use of blood and plasma.

An illustrated historical account of the development of blood transfusions opens the book and is carried up to modern times and the use of fresh and reconstituted plasma. There follows an excellent discussion of the individual blood donor, his physical and psychologic examination, the question of payment, and the problem of transmission of disease from donor to recipient, with special emphasis on syphilis. The blood groups are briefly but adequately presented in a clearly diagrammed manner, although the Rh complex is summarily treated in one short paragraph and presents the state of knowledge of early 1942. The major and most interesting portion of the book deals with the rise of blood donor organizations in modern society. It stresses the social aspects of the problem of an adequate supply of blood donors in the face of mounting use of blood transfusions. The development of blood donor societies in each of the major countries is individually outlined and the types of organizations are discussed and criticized.

This book is written in a simple style, almost as if it were intended more for the general lay public than for the medical profession. However, it does give an excellent general review of the whole problem of an adequate source of supply of human blood, and the methods, both organizational and psychologic, by which such a source might be set up. It is certainly advantageous reading for all those physicians actively associated with blood banks and blood transfusion services.

J. NEBER