THE ISOLATION OF A HAEMOLYTIC SUBSTANCE FROM ANIMAL TISSUES AND ITS BIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES. *H. Laser*. From the Molteno Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England. J. Physiol. *110:* 338–355, 1949.

The author isolated a hemolytic substance of high activity from plasma and other organs of horses. The substance was found to be a mono-unsaturated, mono-carboxylic fatty acid with the chain length C_{18}. The acid has been identified as cis-11-12-octadecenoic acid and this has been confirmed by synthesis. It is found in various parts of the body and in various concentrations in parts of the same system, i.e., nervous system. In erythrocytes, the substance is bound to and inactivated by the stromata. Optimal activity of the substance in vitro is dependent on the presence of phosphate. The body contains many substances which can inhibit the hemolytic activity of this substance, such as proteins, cholesterol, lecithin, and calcium. The presence of the hemolytic substance in the erythrocytes themselves is assumed to be related to their life span.—*R.C.C.*

BOOK REVIEW

Thrombosis in Arteriosclerosis of the Lower Extremities. By EDWARD A. EDWARDS. Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1949. Pp. 70 + 2 ref. pp. $2.00.

A concise and able presentation of the essential features of arteriosclerosis in the lower extremities with the development of thrombosis and its serious sequelae has been made available in this monograph. The first portion of the book deals with a discussion of the etiology and pathology of thrombosis in arteriosclerosis with numerous illustrations of the induction of thrombosis, the later changes in the vessel and the effects of ischemia. Symptoms and signs, clinical course, complications and prognosis and diagnosis are briefly discussed. The author endorses the proposition that excessive cholesterol is causative in the disease and believes that prophylaxis may be encouraged by limitation of animal fats.

Because increase of the circulation has proved clinically to give considerable protection against thrombosis, lumbar sympathectomy is favored although criteria for the choice of the operation for arteriosclerosis in general are not discussed. The author believes that immediate lumbar sympathectomy in the treatment of established thrombosis is the most significant single item available today. Anticoagulants and Buerger's drugs have been disappointing.

The second half of the book is devoted to case reports illustrating thrombosis due to various causes in many of the major arteries of the lower extremity. These are well chosen examples, demonstrating as they do the complications of the disorder, the difficulties of treatment and the correlation of the clinical picture with the pathology.

The author makes the point that no special instruments or laboratory procedures are required to make the diagnosis, that history and physical examination alone are sufficient, and expresses the hope that a greater awareness of the frequency and seriousness of thrombosis will bear fruit in the prevention of gangrene and of seriously impaired function.—*Allan D. Callow*.

ERRATA: Frommeyer, Epstein and Taylor: Refractoriness in hemophilia to coagulation-promoting agents: Whole blood and plasma derivatives. Blood *5:* 401–420 (May), 1950. The authors wish to note that the following changes should have appeared in the article:

Page 402, first line: "Lawrence and Johnson, 1941,[8] reported" (instead of "Lawrence and Johnson, in 1946,[8] reported").

Page 402, second sentence of same paragraph: "In this instance the patient had received whole blood and plasma in therapeutic management prior to the appearance of resistance to therapy." (instead of ". . . had received chemically prepared plasma fractions in the form of Fraction I of Cohn in addition to whole blood and plasma in therapeutic management prior to . . . ").

Page 420, reference 8. To this reference should be added: "(Presented before the American Clinical and Climatological Society, October 1941.)."