
BOOK REVIEW

BLOOD GROUP SUBSTANCES: THEIR CHEMISTRY AND IMMUNOCHEMISTRY. *Elvin A. Kabat*. Columbia University, New York. Academic Press, Inc., 1956. 330 pp. \$8.00.

The chemistry of the blood group substances has been studied in few laboratories. These investigations have drawn considerably from the related fields of immunochemistry, immunology, carbohydrate and protein chemistry, genetics and clinical medicine. The present volume synthesizes existing information on the blood group substances as seen from the viewpoint of quantitative immunochemistry, and in addition presents a comprehensive review of the genetic, serologic, clinical, and anthropologic aspects of the blood groups together with an astute analysis of the implications of these findings.

The author is uniquely qualified for this task, especially since recent developments in his laboratory have shed the first real light on the relationship of the unique immunologic specificity of the blood group A, B, & O substances to their structure. The immunochemical methods used by him have been shown to be of great value in improving and standardizing preparations of blood group substances used in clinical medicine and will undoubtedly be highly useful in the future evaluation and reinterpretation of some of the genetics of blood groups and in blood group serology.

Several aspects of the book deal primarily with clinical and serologic features of the human blood group factors—blood grouping methods and reagents, antibody formation, etc. The very lucid and comprehensive manner in which these topics are presented will make it possible for interested individuals to develop a broad grasp of the current knowledge in this area without the prohibitive expenditure of time and energy previously necessary. Additional chapters on sources, purification, chemical composition, immunochemical characterization, and structural composition of the blood group A, B, O and Le^a substances give a detailed analysis of past work to date, as well as of the latest current findings in the author's laboratory. Chapters on immunochemical similarities and dissimilarities between blood group substances and of antibodies to them are also included. The bibliography is excellent. Highly recommended.—*Hugh Fudenberg, M.D.*

BOOKS RECEIVED

VORTRAGE AUS DEM GEBIET DER KLINISCHEN CHEMIE UND CARDIOLOGIE. *von Prof. Dr. L. Heilmeyer.* Stuttgart, Georg Thieme Verlag, 1956. 96 pp. \$2.60.

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES. Containing Descriptions of Drugs Evaluated by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. Philadelphia and Montreal, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1956. 540 pp.

CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY. 4th Ed. *M. M. Wintrobe.* Philadelphia. Lea & Febiger, 1956. 1184 pp. \$15.00

MEDITATIONS ON MEDICINE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION. Past and Present. *I. Snapper.* New York and London, Grune & Stratton, 1956. 138 pp. \$3.75.

THE DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM OF BODY PROTEINS. *George H. Whipple.* Springfield, Ill. Charles C Thomas, 1956. 68 pp.

CURRENTS IN BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH 1956. *Edited by David E. Green.* New York and London, 1956. Interscience Publishers, Inc., 1956. 697 pp. \$10.00.

THE YEAR BOOK OF PATHOLOGY AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY. *Edited by William B. Wartman.* Chicago, The Year Book Publishers, 1956. 480 pp. \$6.50.

THE LUNG AS A MIRROR OF SYSTEMIC DISEASE. *Eli H. Rubin.* Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1956. 288 pp. \$12.50.