

out without the judicious use of extensive quantitative laboratory tests. As I pointed out in my detailed article,³ haphazard changes will in most cases invite grave consequences.

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MICHAEL SOMOGYI, PH.D.
St. Louis

BOOK REVIEWS

ARTERIAL EMBOLISM IN THE LIMBS. By A. L. Jacobs and C. G. Rob. \$8.00, pp. 200, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1959.

This book is impressive as a sincere and objective study of the problem of arterial embolism. The author supports his conclusions by data based on dissections and injections as well as on first-hand examination of patients (eighty-one case histories are given in the Appendix). The conclusions themselves are attractively and provocatively summarized in the last chapter as a series of aphorisms, for example: "Embolism is commonest in the smallest arteries and least common in the largest. This natural anatomical incidence is not evident in hospital series because many of the less serious cases do not come under observation." "Arterial pulsation, though usually weakened, is not uncommonly felt beyond the site of an embolic occlusion in a large limb artery." "Though the number of successes is not great, embolectomy holds first place in the treatment of embolism of the larger limb arteries." Most of these seem useful, although some vascular surgeons might take exception to the following one: "In limbs with adequate collateral circulation, signs of grave ischaemia do not persist for more than two hours after onset." On the whole, this thoughtful book should prove to be extremely helpful for those concerned in the management of sudden vascular occlusions in the extremities.

PANCREATITIS. A CLINICAL-PATHOLOGIC CORRELATION. By Herman T. Blumenthal and J. G. Probst. \$9.50, pp. 379, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1959.

This useful book may be described as encyclopedic within a small compass. It is remarkable that the authors have been able to condense a great mass of literature so successfully, in addition to analyzing carefully their own series of 163 cases. One consequence of covering the field so completely is that some newer developments, such as the association of pancreatitis with hyperparathyroidism and hyperlipemia, and recent studies on enzymes in the serum, are more or less submerged in the general discussion. This is perhaps of little moment, however, since the newness of such observations does not necessarily endow them with special importance.

The authors classify acute pancreatitis into etiologic types

as follows: infectious, vascular, biliary obstructive, pancreatic obstructive, metabolic, toxic and chemical, traumatic, allergic, idiopathic. The last named is still the largest single category (over one third of cases in their series). The most vexatious problems in this respect are well brought out. Among the interesting points in their discussion of etiology and pathogenesis is the suggestion that some of the more recently recognized pancreatic enzymes, such as collagenase and elastase, play an important part in breaking down tissue in the acute disease.

The authors present interesting hypotheses to explain the mechanism of clinical manifestations in some cases. The propensity of acute pancreatitis for mimicking other diseases is indicated. In considering treatment, they emphasize that the management of the acute phase is primarily medical, while the treatment of the complications and sequelae is largely surgical. The importance of watching closely for loss of blood volume and of electrolytes is properly emphasized. The management of disturbed carbohydrate metabolism is considered briefly, with a note of caution about the use of insulin, and consideration of the effect of hypoglycemia on the secretory activity of the exocrine pancreas.

A minor criticism may be leveled at the index, where many page references are listed under a given subject, with no indication as to which one represents the major discussion of the problem. As a consequence, a good deal of thumbing of pages is required to find certain information. In a future edition bold-face type might be used to indicate relative importance.

This volume seems certain to become a standard reference work in a difficult and obscure field.

BOOKS RECEIVED

DIABETES MELLITUS. Third Congress of the International Diabetes Federation, Düsseldorf, July 21-25, 1958. Edited by Prof. Dr. K. Oberdisse and Priv.-Doz. Dr. K. Jahnke, Düsseldorf. German, English and French summaries of each paper are included. \$41.65, pp. 799, 225 partly colored illustrations, 178 tables, 1959. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart. In the U.S.A. and Canada, Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, New York 16, New York.