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BOOK REVIEWS

REVERSIBLE RENAL INSUFFICIENCY: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By Donald H. Atlas and Peter Gaberman. \$7.00, pp. 233, The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1958.

This small volume provides an easy review of much of the available information and current thinking on the subject of renal insufficiency of various origins, chiefly acute tubular necrosis. Examples of renal failure attributed to mercurous chloride, carbon tetrachloride, body fluid depletion, diabetic coma, alkalosis, acidosis, hyperparathyroidism and lupus are described from the authors' experience. Toxemia, cortical necrosis, urinary infection, cerebral salt wastage, epidemic hemorrhagic fever, renal calcification, renal tubular disease, gout, and a host of other precursors of renal failure are also discussed or listed.

Details of biochemical aspects are generally lacking in keeping with the attempt to present the subject in a discursive manner. However, since their own observations on particular entities are generally not given, the development and flow of concepts and information are intermittently halted by the necessity to cite in detail the work of others. Nonetheless the end product is a useful presentation of the problem and the bibliography is adequate for further study. The eight cases of hypercalcemia and sarcoidosis reported by Sholz and Keating are erroneously listed in table 4 as examples of Burnett's syndrome.

PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES. By Travis Winsor, M.D., F.A.C.P. \$16.50, pp. 845, 435 illustrations, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1959.

This is an encyclopedic text presenting a fascinating array of diverse information. As can be expected by those familiar with the author's interests, more than 100 pages are devoted to the governing laws, mechanical construction and operation of medical gadgetry. This is highly recommended reading to all frustrated engineers. Unfortunately the author's dependence on the plethysmogram has so colored the clinical section of the book that it is not too useful to those of us who in the past and in the future will continue to use successfully only our eyes, ears and fingers in examining the patient.

The lavish use of excellent diagrammatic illustrations will help the student to understand the anatomy and physiology of the vascular structures and their diseases.

The author has included almost all theories of causation and modalities for therapy without critically selecting and presenting the very few which have proved useful.

This reviewer believes that hemoptysis should be mentioned as a symptom of pulmonary infarction, that enzymatic debridement of ischemic ulcers is positively harmful, and that four inches elevation of the feet in treating thrombophlebitis is sending a small boy to do a man's work.

In summary: The first half of the text is excellent and rewarding reading. The second or clinical half should be absorbed through a critical filter.