

REFERENCES

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BOOK REVIEWS

THE ARTERIAL WALL. Edited by Albert I. Lansing, A.B., Ph.D. \$7.50, pp. 259, *The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1959.*

This volume will be especially welcome to those followers of the literature on atherosclerosis who have sensed an over-emphasis on diet and the lipid constituents of the plasma. Certainly progress can be expected only if these factors are considered in relation to the substrate where the disease is manifest, namely the walls of the blood vessels.

In the words of the editor, himself a long-time student of blood vessels, the volume "represents an attempt to review the data that are currently available on the structure, function and chemistry of the major components of the arterial wall." This objective is accomplished with great success in a series of chapters written by qualified investigators. The subjects covered are the vasa vasorum, endothelium, smooth muscle, elastic tissue, collagen and ground substance, mucopolysaccharides, enzymes, lipid metabolism and metabolism in general, all considered as components of or in relation to the arterial wall. Except for the chapter on collagen and ground substance, all are clearly presented. It is interesting and stimulating to find that the vast majority of the many references at the ends of chapters are dated since 1950. Most of the material has to do with the normal artery, but there are some data on aging and a few on atherosclerosis. The information is often basic, largely biochemical, almost entirely "functional." In fact, as is suggested in the concluding chapter, this book heralds the transition from a descriptive anatomic unit to a dynamic approach to the blood vessel wall.

One is left with a sense of incompleteness and frustration, a feeling obviously shared by the editor and contributors, caused by the vast gaps in our knowledge which become apparent when the available information in a field is carefully and intelligently collected, as it is here. The recognition of these gaps, is, in fact, a major function of this important book, which will doubtless serve as a base for investigations of the blood vessels for years to come.

HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS. By Sir Stanley Davidson, A. P. Meiklejohn and R. Passmore. \$15.00, pp. 844, *The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1959.*

This book, in common with most encyclopedic volumes, varies considerably from chapter to chapter. The attempt to write a book which would be useful to physicians and intelligible to nonmedical people has resulted at times in textual material that oversimplifies the medical aspect but still is too complicated for the nonclinically trained person.

The book is divided into six parts:

Part I, with the title of "Physiology," is rather more extensive than is usually found in this type of compendium. The discussion of fats and blood lipids is up-to-date. Much of the other material is at the medical student level and as such might appeal to the general practitioner.

Part II concerns itself with food and food composition, presented from the Food and Agriculture point of view.

Part III, on "Primary Nutritional Diseases," again is basically from the public health and epidemiological point of view rather than the practical day to day problems which the practitioner will encounter.

Part IV is "Nutritional Aspects and Dietetic Treatment of General Diseases." The terminology here is basically British, and the approach is that encountered more commonly by physicians who have received their training on the Continent. It does not conform entirely with the current teaching in this country.

Parts V and VI have to do with public health and diet in physiological stress.

To the American this book is written with a certain English whimsy and a delicious use of the English language not commonly found in American texts. It is not particularly suited for the clinician who is involved in the day to day problems of the office practice of medicine. It does, however, represent condensation of a tremendous amount of experience in international nutritional problems as encountered in underdeveloped countries in many parts of the world. From the point of view of those involved in this type of work, the book can be recommended very highly. It draws very extensively on the United Nations organizations, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

PYELONEPHRITIS. By Fletcher H. Colby, M.D. \$7.50, pp. 214, 94 illustrations, *The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1959.*

The subject of this book has in recent years become one of great interest and importance not only to the urologist, obstetrician, pediatrician and internist but to all students of physiology and bacteriology. The author, therefore, has presented briefly the embryology, anatomy and physiology of the kidney as a preliminary to the presentation of clinical features. As a surgeon, he has stressed his long experience on the urologic service and gives many excellent roentgenograms. However, special chapters are devoted to pyelonephritis in infancy, pregnancy and in relation to diabetes and hypertension. The special responsibilities of the surgeon because of his use of traumatizing instruments and because of the difficulty of insuring cleanliness and asepsis are discussed in the concluding chapter. He contrasts the treatment of acute pyelonephritis, emphasizing the use of the newer drugs, with the greater difficulties and the manifold problems in the diagnosis and