

BOOK REVIEWS

DAS MENSCHLICHE KNOCHENMARK, ed. 2. *Karl Robr*. Stuttgart, George Thieme Verlag, 1949. Pp. 400. (American distributors, Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York.)

This is a scholarly, well documented treatise on the marrow. There are comprehensive chapters dealing with embryology and cellular development, cellular morphology, physiology, including central nervous system regulation, reciprocal relationship of the granulocytic and lymphocytic systems, cellular regulation, and pathology. The so-called special section, which comprises about two-thirds of the volume, deals with specific abnormalities of erythropoiesis, leukopoiesis, and thrombocytopoiesis, and with such other abnormalities as panmyelosis, aplasias, malignancies, and infectious diseases.

This book on the marrow is a monographic text, and, although it is not meant to be an atlas, it contains 143 illustrations, many of them in color. The book is beautifully printed and illustrated on fine paper, and is by all odds the best documented and most scholarly work on the marrow thus far produced. The book is rounded out by a complete bibliography of about 600 references.—*William Dameshek*

L'ANEMIA DA ANCHILOSTOMA; STUDIO PATOGENETICO. (THE ANEMIA OF HOOKWORM DISEASE, PATHOGENETIC STUDY.) *P. Larizza and S. Ventura*. Pavia, Italy, Tipografia del libro, 1950. Pp. 190

The mechanism of the hypochromic anemia to be found in about 15 per cent of the patients with ankylostomiasis has been the subject of much speculation, ever since the brilliant observations of Oswaldo Cruz. In agreement with the conclusions of the Brazilian author, the writers consider that the iron deficiency is capable of explaining all the most significant characteristics of the anemia of hookworm disease (globular hypochromia, hyposideremia, maturation arrest of the erythroblastic series in the bone marrow, tissue hyposiderosis), while they reject the hypotheses of other authors on the possible role of abnormalities of copper and lipid metabolism. In the opinion of the authors, the pathogenesis of the sideropenia is complex: among the most significant factors involved are the continuous loss through hemorrhage and the defective absorption of iron due to the presence of the parasites in the intestinal lumen. With Cruz, the writers observe that the expulsion of the parasites is not sufficient to correct the iron deficiency (a sign that the tissue reserves of the metal have probably been exhausted) and that sideropenia cannot be found in the ankylostomiasis patients who do not develop anemia.

The main interest of this monograph resides in the comprehensive discussion of the subject of anemia due to ancylostoma, based on the analysis of a large bibliographic material, including 164 references. Interesting original material is also to be found in some chapters, especially data concerning serum iron curves in normal subjects and in patients with ankylostomiasis.

The format of the book is elegant and the printing faultless and unusually clear.—*M. Stefanini*

TRAITE DE MEDICINE, vol. 12 (DISEASES OF BLOOD AND BLOOD FORMING ORGANS). Edited by *Masson and Co*. Paris, 1949. Pp. 720.

A selected group of French hematologists has collaborated in the preparation of this volume. Special chapters include: General Principles of Diagnosis (Weil); Anemias, Diseases of the Spleen and Blood Transfusion (Benhamou); Splenectomy (Goinard); Polycythemia (Weil and Bernard); Leukemias (Lamy and Mallarmé); Eosinophilias (Albahary); Primary Bone Marrow Involvement (Aschkenasy); Erythroblastoses (Bousser); Agranulocytosis and Infectious Mononucleosis (Mouquin); Hemorrhagic Diseases (Roskam); Diseases of the Lymph Nodes (Aubertin and Poumailloux); Hodgkin's Disease (Chevallier and Bilski-Pasquier); Hemoglobinurias (Brule).

Following a pattern familiar to French medicine, great emphasis is placed on the detailed analysis of the clinical picture and the differential diagnosis of the various conditions, while pathogenesis and therapy are often summarily dismissed and are not always up to date. Unfortunately, important concepts are sometimes lost in the abundance of nonessential details. Some chapters should receive special mention for their excellence, such as the sections on splenopathies, blood transfusion and eosinophilias. The first one contains, for example, an interesting symptomatic classification of splenomegalies. There are several illustrations in black and white (usually poor) and a few in color (generally excellent). In the European tradition, the book contains an abundance of good reading material. It should interest

the American reader as an accurate presentation of the contributions of French hematology in the War and immediate post-war period.—*M. Stefanini*

HEMA (Annals of the Blood Transfusion Service in Lisbon, Portugal). Second series, vol. 1. Edited by *Almerindo Lessa*. Lisbon, 1949.

This book is a series of articles presenting work conducted at the Blood Transfusion Hospital Service of Lisbon and lectures delivered to the medical profession by several Portuguese and foreign hematologists under the auspices of the Service.

The volume contains very little original material. Students of genetics will be interested in the following distribution of blood groups among 2,370 donors of Portuguese nationality: *A*, 46.92 per cent; *O*, 41.97 per cent; *B*, 7.86 per cent; *AB*, 3.24 per cent. The cells of 83.9 per cent of these donors were agglutinated by specific anti-D antisera. Administrators will read with interest an article by Sessa and Fonseca on the organization and function of the Blood Transfusion Service of the Civilian Hospitals in Lisbon.—*M. Stefanini*

BLOOD CLOTTING AND ALLIED PROBLEMS (Transactions of the Second Conference. Sponsored by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation). Edited by *Joseph E. Flynn*. New York, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 1949. Pp. 231.

This volume contains the transactions of the Second Conference on blood clotting and allied problems, sponsored by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation of New York. The volume consists of a series of presentations followed by a round-table discussion.

Interesting experiments on the separation from various tissues of a lipid with anticoagulant effect are presented by Tocantins, Carroll and Overman. The latter author also discusses an admittedly rather imaginative theory of the coagulation of blood and illustrates the interesting finding that, in vitro, thrombin can be formed from purified prothrombin in the absence of calcium (an observation recently confirmed by Seegers). An exhaustive discussion on the structure and mechanism of formation of the fibrin clot is presented by Ferry, while Barker and Margulis discuss some rather well known concepts on the effect of surfaces on the coagulation of blood. Flynn presents a well documented series of observations on the mechanism of conversion of prothrombin to thrombin.

This volume is directed at the inner circle of "experts" in the field of blood coagulation who will find it very stimulating, although much of the material has already appeared in current literature. To the uninitiated, the problems in the field of hemostasis, approached from a predominantly biochemical angle as in this volume, appear increasingly complex.

The clinically minded reader will probably find only a few points of interest: a brief but comprehensive review by Quick on the role of platelets in the coagulation of blood; a most interesting discussion by Knisely on the early stages of thrombus formation; preliminary observations by Sorenson and Wright on the newly introduced anti-coagulant Paritol (a polysulfuric ester, a derivative of alginic acid). There is a round-table discussion dealing largely with the standardization of the thromboplastic reagent, inconclusive but leaving the feeling that the often criticized one-stage prothrombin time determination is still the best tool available for the control of dicumarol therapy and the study of prothrombin activity in hemorrhagic diseases.

A poetic interlude, which also appeared in the first issue of the transactions of the Conference, is supplied by Dr. Knisely.—*M. Stefanini*.

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY SURGEONS TO MEET

The 1950 Convention of The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States will be held November 9 to 11, inclusive, at the Hotel Statler, New York City. Appropriate to the times, the programs will deal with Civil Defense, the Defensive Role of the Physician, Aviation Medicine, Rehabilitation, Military Medicine, Surgery, Sanitation, and discussions on the use of the newest therapeutic and prophylactic agents in emergency conditions. The Convention has been organized to provide Section meetings for Dental, Nursing, Veterinary, and other specialty groups. Several of the sessions will be directed to the problems of the Medical Reserve.