changes in chlorpromazine jaundice and that produced by
other drugs are described in some detail and the possible
relationship to primary biliary cirrhosis is discussed in
detail.

The nosological jungle through which we are led by the
authors is a dense one, the problems of aetiology are
equally obscure, and central to their theme is the realiza-
tion that ‘the mechanism of bile leakage in biliary
retention ... still eludes us’.

There is much work to be done and those who embark
on it will be grateful to those guides who have led them so
certainly to the starting post and pointed the way. The
affection of the authors for that interesting organ, the
liver, is obvious and they have illustrated its problems
both in text and figures with admirable precision. The
style of their writing is succinct and compressed and
demands a reader’s close attention. But how worthwhile
it is to give that close attention.

J. N. P. DAVIES

CARBOHYDRATES OF LIVING TISSUES. By M. Stacey and
Nostrand Co. Ltd. 1962.

This book deals with polysaccharide and oligosaccharide
complexes found in the animal and human body and will
be of great value to the pathologist interested in the
changes occurring in disease in normal tissue carbo-
hydrates. In their introduction the authors emphasize the
peculiarity of knowledge of the constituents of normal human
tissues and dream of the day when the chemist will have
earned the same privilege as the pathologist in aiding
diagnosis.

The first four chapters deal with glycosen, hyaluronic
acid, chondroitin, and heparin. The methods of isolation
and determination are given for each carbohydrate together
with the latest information on their distribution,
structure, and chemical properties. At the end of each chapter
there is an excellent list of references to the original literature up to and including 1960. The biosyn-
thesis and degradation of the various polymers are
described and a very comprehensive account is given of the
changes to be found in carbohydrate pattern in various
diseases.

The chemistry and biological activities of cows and
humans with oligosaccharides are discussed in chapter 6.

The last chapters describe the blood group poly-
saccharides and mucopolysaccharides of blood, saliva, and
sputum. The latest available information on the
structure of these substances is given and also the work done to
ecluciate the functional groups responsible for the
specific serological reactions of these important tissue
constituents. The chapter on ‘Mucopolysaccharides in health and
disease’ gives much valuable information on the electro-
phoretic separation of serum proteins and the changes in
pattern and in bound carbohydrates to be found in
different diseases. The recent methods of physical
analysis of these important mucopolysaccharides are described,
and, to quote just a few cases, the changes to be found in
composition of saliva, cerebrospinal and pleural fluids,
and sputum in disease are described in interesting detail.

The final chapter is devoted to the lipocarbohydrates, a
group of substances interesting because of abnormalities in
their composition found in lipidosis; the more im-
portant members of the group, the gangliosides and
cerebrosides, are described in detail.

This book covers a vast field of knowledge and collects
much valuable information for the first time. It will be of
great value both to the biochemist and the pathologist
interested in the workings of the human body and in
tissue changes occurring during illness.

M. HILTON

LIPROTEIN CHEMISTRY IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By
Ronald L. Searcy and Lois M. Bergquist. A monograph
in AMERICAN LECTURES IN LIVING CHEMISTRY series.
(Pp. xi+197; 34 figures; 9 tables. $8.00.) Springfield,

This monograph must be one of the very first in which the
complete lipoprotein complexes rather than their lipid
components, such as cholesterol, are discussed in relation to
health and disease.

The first half of the book considers lipoproteins from
the chemist’s viewpoint and includes chapters on methods
of analysis, properties, and metabolic changes. In the chapter
on methods of analysis the authors have wisely
given most space to the methods practicable in smaller
laboratories. The second half of the book deals with
physiological and medical aspects, including the influence
of age, sex and race, as well as the effects of stress and
disease, particularly diabetes and atherosclerosis.

The authors have succeeded in making the book
intelligible both to biochemists and medical practitioners
alike, with no chemical formulae to worry clinical
readers. It is up to date, and covers a wide range of
lipoprotein chemistry supported by a large number of references. The conclusions drawn are sound, and the
work as a whole should lead to a wider understanding of
this important and rapidly expanding field of biochemistry
and medicine. It can be strongly recommended to both
biochemists and clinicians.

W. G. DANGERFIELD

DAS LUPUS ERYTHEMATODES-PHÄNOMEN UND DIE ANTI-
NUKLEAREN FAKTOREN. By Albrecht Beckert. (Pp. 111;
12 figures; 7 tables. DM. 25.) Jena: VEB Gustav
Fischer Verlag. 1963.

This small book presents a summary of much of the
available information on L.E. cells and antinuclear
factors. In the first part, L.E. cells and factor are well
described and illustrated. The many different methods
available are listed and given ratings according to their
sensitivity and specificity. In a section on the occurrence
of L.E. cells in diseases other than lupus, the author
states that these can all be classed as collagen or auto-
immune diseases, and that not a single case of L.E. cells in
a normal control subject has been reported. The second
part of the book deals with antinuclear factors. The many
methods of showing these are listed and the results
obtained by many authors given. The report by some
workers of a high incidence of positives in normal
subjects by the fluorescent antibody technique draws
attention to the importance of choice of substrate in this
test. Smears of buccal mucosa cells and, to a lesser extent,
human leucocytes, seem to be particularly unsatisfactory
in this respect. Two short chapters on the production and
pathogenic significance of antinuclear factors may

Book reviews

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