**Book reviews**

**VASCULAR HISTOCHEMISTRY** by C. W. M. Adams. 

The changes which develop in the walls of the blood vessels in disease states are associated with innumerable disturbances of chemical constitution and reactivity. These involve not only the lipid make up but also the mucopolysaccharides, proteins, tissue enzymes, and minerals. It is fortunate that such a skilled histochemist as Professor C. W. M. Adams should turn his energies to this rich material and has found time to compile this most useful monograph incorporating the work of his team and reviewing the work of others.

A chapter describing the histochemical features of normal vascular tissues (including the heart) is followed by an excellent 50-page review of the general features of atherosclerosis. This includes an assessment of pathogenic factors and winds us with the author’s personal interpretation of the evidence. Next comes the ‘meat’ of the book: some 160 pages of detailed histochemistry of atherosclerotic lesions, coagulation phenomena, and cerebral and myocardial infarcts. This impressive section includes consideration of lipid transport in the vessel walls and never neglects to correlate chemical and morphological changes.

There follow briefer accounts of the histochemistry of other arterial diseases, including a masterly survey of the reactions of so-called fibrinoid as it occurs in a variety of conditions, a beautifully illustrated account of the chemical features of diabetic renal vascular lesions, and an excellent review on the subject of amyloid.

The final section is a most useful glossary explaining some 200 histochemical terms and technical methods. This is a helpful addition which adds much to the comprehensibility of the text to the non-chemical reader.

Professor Adams is to be congratulated on producing a monograph which is a most useful addition to all who are interested in the important subject of arterial disease.

T. Crawford


Symposia on limited fields of research are valuable to those who take part since the participants have the opportunity to discuss their own results with other experts and to obtain the reactions of rival groups to their own ideas and interpretations. When the proceedings are published the book provides a record from which a wider public can assess the present situation as viewed by those actively engaged in research. This book is a valuable contribution in a field of study where advances are at present being made very fast. The experimental evidence is concerned mainly with platelets. An excellent review of platelet viscous metamorphosis is given by Luscher and Davey and of platelet aggregation by Haslam and by Salzman. Johnson and co-workers and Mustard and his colleagues contribute very clear, readable articles on the mechanism of occlusion of injured blood vessels. Studies on patients with von Willebrand’s disease are described by Stortomken. The biochemical constituents of platelets and their structure as seen with the electron microscope are discussed. That this book does not concern itself much with blood clotting is not a defect. In the past the platelet contribution to haemostasis and thrombosis has been underestimated and the present swing in favour of the platelets will redress this previous imbalance. The book will be valuable to all those who are interested in blood coagulation and haemostasis. The book is well produced and the contributions comprehensible without too much previous knowledge. Dr. Shirley Johnson is to be congratulated on organising the symposium and on the production of this lucid report.

ROSEMARY BIGGS


Clinical virology is a rapidly expanding subject in which new discoveries and new laboratory techniques are constantly being reported. This has transformed the subject from the confines of a few specialized laboratories to a much wider field in which many clinical pathologists today take an active interest. At the same time if virology is to be taught at the clinical level it can be made a subject of considerable interest to the medical student, for here he can be taught many of the fundamentals of preventive medicine which may at least have some meaning to him. It is difficult in a book of this sort to do without illustrations and other aids to teaching, however good the descriptive word, but in this book Dr. Swain and Mr. Dodds have achieved an excellent compromise between a textbook and an atlas. The book is divided into two main sections, the first dealing with general properties of viruses and the second with virus infections based on the system of the body affected. The text is extremely clearly written, although somewhat on the short side, but this is offset by the quality of the production. The authors’ advice on vaccination seems rather old-fashioned for 1968. The book is profusely illustrated, indeed it is the highlight of the book. There are 241 illustrations, including figures, diagrams, clinical photographs and photomicrographs, both in black and white and colour. Most of them are excellent, especially the black and white illustrations. The colour illustrations have also reproduced very well except for one or two photomicrographs which lack definition. This book provides an excellent introduction to clinical virology and as such will be much in demand by medical and veterinary
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students, scientific students and laboratory technicians. The book will also have a wide appeal to clinicians and pathologists in many different branches, particularly those in hospital practice.

J. A. DUDGEON


This small volume on medical virology is based on lectures given to medical students at the University of Glasgow. The viruses described are grouped on the basis of the diseases they cause in man. Each chapter includes a brief summary of the clinical features, and details of epidemiology, methods of diagnosis, and prevention. Dr. Timbury's lucid style and admirable organization of the subject matter has resulted in a most attractive and useful book which, considering its size, is remarkably comprehensive. This book is strongly recommended for medical and veterinary students for whom it will provide both a useful introduction and framework on which to build further knowledge of medical virology.

J. A. DUDGEON


The author's present book has been awaited for a number of years. It is the third member of his series of four monographs on the haemolytic anaemias. The first of the three chapters is devoted to the haemolytic anaemias associated with malignant disease of the lymphoreticular system—Hodgkin's disease, chronic lymphatic leukaemia, reticulosarcoma, lymphosarcoma, and giant follicle lymphoma in addition to macroglobulinaemia, myeloma-tosis, miscellaneous forms of leukaemia, myelosclerosis, and other reticuloses. Descriptions of the haemolytic anaemias associated with other types of malignant tumours such as disseminated carcinoma and ovarian tumours complete this chapter. The succeeding chapters consist of accounts of haemolytic anaemias associated with a wide variety of non-malignant states including disorders of collagen, various infections, disease of the liver, kidneys, and vascular system, sarcoidosis, pregnancy, hypersplenism, vitamin deficiencies, burns, cardiac surgery, and march haemoglobinuria.

Excellent descriptions of the blood pictures, clinical and serological findings, pathogenesis of haemolysis and the effects of treatment on haemolysis are given throughout. They are accompanied by comprehensive reviews of the literature and interspersed with the author's univalued observations, many of them heretofore unpublished. The standard of the illustrative photomicrographs is expectedly high, and the index is comprehensive. Suggestions relating to further researches in this field are included.

This book is highly recommended. Of more than ephemeral value, it should be on the shelves of all those who have to deal with haemolytic states in the ward or in the laboratory. A must for those within the speciality of haematology, it will prove invaluable to physicians and pathologists alike. There is also much to interest the modern surgeon.

E. K. BLACKBURN


Thyrotoxicosis was the subject of an international symposium held in the Postgraduate Medical Centre in Edinburgh last in May, 1967. The proceedings are now published and provide a comprehensive account of present knowledge in this field. The various aspects of pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment are present in individual papers by well known authorities, including veterans of thyroidology such as Astwood and Werner, and each paper is followed by a well edited informal discussion. The most exciting development has been the identification of the long-acting thyroid stimulator (LATS) as an IgG immunoglobulin. The six contributions dealing with LATS describe recent evidence on the biological effects, the biochemistry, the genetic aspect and the experimental production of this factor which is now thought to be an autoantibody to a thyroid constituent and is probably responsible for the continued overactivity of the thyroid gland in Graves' disease. Evidence is also presented from recent radioimmunoassay measurements of TSH that the pituitary-thyroid axis behaves quite normally in thyrotoxicosis. Some interesting studies on the ultrastructure of the thyrotoxic thyroid show how closely LATS mimics the effects of TSH although the two substances are quite distinct.

The treatment of Graves' disease is thrashed out in some detail. Owing to the ever increasing incidence of myxoedema after 131I therapy, various methods are being tried of reducing the dose of isotope and combining it with prolonged carbimazole administration. No separate paper is devoted to the surgical treatment of thyrotoxicosis, which is a pity. There are certain accepted traditions which would benefit from some degree of critical revision yet for many patients thyroidectomy is still the treatment of choice. Ophthalmic Graves' disease is discussed in great detail, including the elusive subject of exophthalmos-producing-substance (EPS), its relation to LATS, and the recent efforts at treating malignant exophthalmos with immunosuppressive drugs. Parathyroid and calcitonin deficiency in relation to thyroidectomy also receive some attention. Each paper includes an up-to-date bibliography. This is an excellent symposium, and by virtue of its rapid publication provides a most useful method of communication for all those who wish to obtain a concise survey of present knowledge on thyrotoxicosis and the horizons for further research. The convener of the symposium and the editor of its proceedings, Dr. W. J. Irvine, and the publishers should be congratulated.

D. DONIACH