BOOK REVIEWS

ROBERT SCHWARTZ, M.D., Editor


The 32 papers comprising this volume were delivered at the Third International Symposium of the International Society for Research on the Reticuloendothelial System, which was held in Rapallo, Italy in 1958. The subject matter is broad, ranging from morphology to cholesterol and lipid metabolism. A number of the papers should be of particular interest to hematologists: the carefully documented report by Marmont and Fusco of Genoa on autoimmune blood disorders, Putnam’s review of protein metabolism in multiple myeloma, the unique studies of Engstedt and his colleagues on whole body scintigrams after the intravenous injection of colloidal Au198, and that by Nicol and Bilbey on the effect of steroids on the phagocytic activity of the reticuloendothelial system. One of the difficulties with many volumes of this type is the long delay in publication, and this one is no exception, since it was released two years after the conference was held. However, although there is not too much in the way of “news” here, anyone interested in what investigators of the reticuloendothelial system have been up to can consult this book with profit.—Robert Schwartz, M.D.


This book on platelets is divided into two sections: one dealing with studies on platelets derived from normal blood, the other reviewing platelet abnormalities in various disease states. The first section, comprising three chapters, reviews platelet morphology, the behavior of platelets in normal hemostasis and the structure of the clot. One chapter is devoted to thromboelastography. The second section, which contains four chapters, deals with such conditions as thrombasthenia, congenital and acquired thrombopathies and thrombocytopenic states. Dr. Sokal has prepared a well documented summary of his own work as well as that of others. The bibliography is excellent, and the book should be valuable to anyone interested in blood coagulation. Ayse Ozge, New England Center Hospital, Boston.


This book is a collection of 47 papers and panel discussions dealing with both basic and clinical aspects of metals in medicine, which were presented at a symposium held in Philadelphia in May, 1959. Fundamental areas discussed include the relationships of chemical structure to metal-binding action, the role of metal ions in enzyme systems and the pharmacology and toxicity of chelating agents. Among the papers on clinical applications are included discussions of the use of chelating agents in heart disease, and in scleroderma and porphyria, lead and industrial metal poisoning, and iron-storage diseases. Their use in the promotion of excretion of radioelements, and as vehicles for the in vivo introduction of radioisotopes was also described. There is a section devoted to copper metabolism in Wilson’s disease and in addition, the treatment of this disorder with Penicillamine.

As is likely in any symposium with this number of papers, there is considerable variation in the quality of the contributions. Most of the major topics, however, are covered by an authoritative presentation. Indexing is thorough. The book should be of value as a reference and to those with special interest in these areas. Huntington Porter, M.D., Department of Neurology, New England Medical Center, Boston.
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This book is an account of a conference held in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1958, which was devoted to current research on the placenta. The book is divided into four sections: general reviews, the conference itself, a survey of the literature and a list of investigations.

It opens with a sound and enlightening exposition of comparative aspects of hormonal functions of the placenta by E. C. Amoroso. Placentologists and students of comparative endocrinology will find this review truly informative. His critical analysis of the literature points up the fact that in addition to its role as a vital link between mother and fetus, the placenta can supplant the endocrine functions of the ovaries, the pituitary and the adrenal glands during pregnancy.

In the subsequent chapters, outstanding scientists discuss important problems of placental morphology, physiology and biochemistry. Edward W. Dempsey, in his chapter entitled Histophysical Considerations, emphasizes the inadequacies of Grosser's classification of placentas, and demonstrates by anatomical-physiological correlations of comparative placentology gross errors in this old concept. Elizabeth M. Ramsey discusses the Placental Circulation with particular reference to humans and primates. In The Placenta and the Fetal Lung, Donald H. Barron describes the transfer of oxygen across the placenta in sheep, goats and rabbits. The transmission of antibodies from mother to fetus is described lucidly by F. W. Brumbell and W. A. Hemmings. They emphasize the different rates of transmission of several types of antibodies, including isoantibodies from mother to fetus, in different species possessing a variety of placental structures. The section on placental function and fetal nutrition is written by Joseph Dancis who takes up the transport of electrolytes, vitamins, nucleic acid, sugars, lipids and proteins. Claude A. Villee's chapter on Biochemical Aspects is an attempt to bring the reader up to date on the role of the placenta in transport, its aging as gestation proceeds, its metabolic pattern, its similarity to malignant tissues and its ability to synthesize or inactivate certain hormones. Finally, this section is closed with a magnificent exposition of the pathological placenta by the leading authority in this field, Arthur T. Hertig, who makes of his extensive knowledge of human embryology to explain aberrations from the normal.

The proceedings of the conference include studies on the morphology, physiology and biochemistry of the placenta as well as evidences from pathological conditions regarding structures and functions of the placenta. Although the survey of the literature and list of contributors is by no means complete, it is very extensive and should prove useful for all people interested in this subject.

This book on the placenta and its membranes will be welcomed by all those interested in the placenta.—Wadi A. Bardawil, M.D., St. Margaret's Hospital and Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.


This is a monograph in the American Lecture Series.

Dr. Bluefarb has performed a great service by putting together in one volume all the various dermatologic manifestations that he and others have ever observed in leukemic states. There are extensive citations of the literature and 170 illustrations, together with a large number of case reports. There is an extensive discussion of herpes zoster, and deservedly so because of its common association with leukemia. Polycythemia has a chapter of its own. Drs. Irving Friedman and Stanley Leithold complete the monograph with a chapter on the diagnosis of leukemia. This is a nice little treatise on the dermatologic manifestations of leukemia.—William Daneshek, M.D., New England Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.


This monograph contains chapters on Lipidoses (Urbach), Systemic Reticuloendothelial Granulomas (Bluefarb), Sarcoidosis (Israel et al.) and Mastocytosis (Sagher and Even-
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Paz). Of these the most valuable is that dealing with the systemic reticuloendothelial granulomas, including such entities as Letterer-Siwe disease, Schuller-Christian disease, and eosinophilic granuloma. The chapter on mastocytosis is probably the best treatise that has been written thus far on the interesting subject of mast cell proliferative lesions. This is certain to be of increasing interest, especially as the relationship between urticaria pigmentosa and mast cell leukemia becomes increasingly manifest. Whether mastocytosis of a generalized variety is "leukemia," whether mast cells should be classified as blood cells, how these are related to the basophiles, all these are highly interesting questions—which must be worked out. Besides the detailed cutaneous manifestations, there are descriptions of mast cells studied by all available techniques, including the histochemical and chemical. The latter are of particular interest because of the intimate relationship of mast cells to heparin, histamine, and serotonin. It is becoming increasingly clear that the mast cell system is an important one both physiologically and pathologically, and that eventually this system might well be included amongst the hematopoietic cells. Thus mast cell leukemia may well become an entity and without the usual quotation marks.—William Dameshek, M.D., New England Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.


This is a massive volume excellently bound and printed on heavy glossy paper. Sections on methodology and other introductory material take up about 320 pages. Diseases are dealt with according to organs. Thus, the first disease discussed is that of chronic granulocytic leukemia, since this is a bone marrow disorder. Also discussed in the same chapter are "medullary insufficiencies," agranulocytosis, multiple myeloma, etc. There are large sections on "collagenosis," hemorrhagic disorders, and disorders related to the blood groups. Hemolytic anemias of the "erythropathic" and "plasmopathic" varieties are discussed. From the purely descriptive aspects, this volume has some merit, particularly for the beginner. This would be a useful volume in Spanish-speaking countries.—William Dameshek, M.D., New England Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.


Dr. Heremans of the University of Louvain has written a scholarly review of new techniques which can be applied to the study of serum proteins responsible for the \( \beta_2 \) and \( \gamma \) areas of the electrophoretic pattern. His subject matter includes immunoochemical methods, immunoelectrophoresis and agar gel diffusion. Special attention is given to the \( \beta_2 \) globulin, first described by Wilson and Grabar (also referred to as \( \beta_2 \) or \( \beta_1 \)), and later isolated from normal serum by Heremans. The qualitative abnormalities of the \( \gamma \) system are thoroughly reviewed and, according to Heremans, they may be classified as paraproteinemias. Whether or not this terminology is correct is a moot point, since, as Grabar has pointed out, minute amounts of these "abnormal" proteins can be found in normal serum. Of particular interest in this section is the description of an apparently new syndrome consisting of the simultaneous occurrence of a \( \beta_\text{par} \) myeloma protein in the serum, minimal bone destruction and xanthomatosis with marked increase in low density serum lipoproteins.

Quantitative abnormalities of the \( \gamma \) system are reviewed in a separate section, in which congenital and acquired hypogammaglobulinemias are taken up. An extensive summary in English has been included. This book is highly recommended.—Janine André, M.D., New England Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.

This interesting book contains 21 papers which were given in 1959, at the meeting of the International Academy of Pathology. Recent advances in our knowledge of the morphology, physiology and kinetics of normal and abnormal lymphocytes are described. Sundberg's review of the origin, structure and inter-relationships of lymphocytes is of particular interest. Many authors stressed the difficulty of precise differentiation among the group of diseases which Dameshek astutely termed "lymphoproliferative disorders."

The fascinating problem of the experimental induction of lymphocytic malignancies, including the viral etiology of neoplasms of the lymphoid system is carefully documented by Gross and Schwartz. Harris and Harris clearly summarize the role of the lymphatic system in host responses to transplanted tissue; they add their own data on transfer of lymph nodes.

This monograph is a clear and precise review of our present knowledge of this mysterious and still highly controversial cell; the lymphocyte. Highly recommended.—Janine André, M.D., New England Center Hospital, Boston, Mass.

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