BOOK REVIEWS

THE HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIAS, PART IV. J. V. Dacie.

Grune & Stratton, Inc.  Pages: 352
381 Park Avenue South  Price: $11.00
New York, New York 10016  Publication date: November 10, 1967

Part I of Dacie’s second edition of the now classic The Haemolytic Anaemias appeared in 1960. At long last and almost eight years later, we have Part IV. It was worth waiting for! With publication of this volume, Dr. Dacie can now relax from his labors in this constantly changing and expanding field. There are some 352 pages, as compared with the 91 pages in the first edition dealing with the same topics. Drug-induced hemolytic anemia, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria and hemolytic disease of the new born are discussed. As we have come to expect from Dacie, the subjects are dealt with in great detail and with sober judgment. The section on drug-induced hemolytic anemia deals largely with G6PD deficiency. That on PNH is, of course, enlivened by the increasing knowledge that we are dealing here with a total bone marrow disease and that the abnormal erythrocyte is the important thing and not the various plasma factors, about which so much has been written, some of it of questionable significance. Dacie concludes that the defect of the PNH erythrocyte may well be due to a self-perpetuating somatic mutation with clonal development. This comes close to my own thinking, although Dacie rejects the thesis that this is like leukemia in that there is “no evidence at all that the erythropoietic stem cells in PNH ever develop malignant, that is invasive, proliferation.” About this there could be some discussion, since I have the rather perverse idea that a neoplastic disturbance need not necessarily be invasive.

The classic nature of Dacie’s The Haemolytic Anaemias has been thoroughly recognized and therefore needs no further elaboration in this review. All of us are happy that his once little book, now grown to many volumes, has finally been completed. It will stand for a long time as the standard publication in this large and interesting field.—William Dameshek, M.D.

THROMBOCYTEN UND THROMBOSE IM ELEKTRONENMIKROSOPHISCHEN BILD. H. Schulz.

Springer-Verlag  Pages: 100
Abteilung VI  Price: $24.50
Berlin 31, Germany  Publication date: December 19, 1967

A book on The Electron Microscopy of Blood Platelets and Thrombosis is welcome news, particularly when its author is no newcomer to this field and capable of evaluating the limitations of ultrastructural technics. It is disappointing, however, that Dr. Schulz has not upgraded his own technic. Most of his platelets still have the “washed out” appearance which was acceptable a decade ago, prior to the introduction of the newer fixing and embedding agents. For example, such currently popular organelles as microtubules and microfibrils are nowhere to be found in Dr. Schulz’ own electron micrographs; however, these structures have been adequately illustrated through the courtesy of other investigators. The book is written in German, but a translation of each of the 64 legends as well as an English summary and Table of Contents are provided. Thus, the English-speaking reader will be able to use this book as an atlas on megakaryocyte and platelet ultrastructure. In this regard, it would have been desirable to include in the legends a description of the experimental conditions, the anticoagulant, and the preparatory methods used. Those who
are able to read the text in its entirety will find it quite complete as far as subject material
is concerned though somewhat superficial in basic scientific analysis. Thus, the author
devotes a chapter on platelet changes resulting from varying tensions of several atmospheric
gases as well as in vivo CO poisoning. Yet, there is no discussion of the experimental
inhibition of glycolysis and/or oxidative phosphorylation, and the effect of such in vitro
manipulations on platelet morphology and function. Such studies have been carried out
in several laboratories and are available for review and interpretation. The bibliography
is by no means exhaustive, but the author is to be commended for his selectivity, sparing
the reader the bewildering number of uncritically selected references commonly attached to
such monographs.

It is an expensive book, probably because of the beautiful way in which it has been
printed. The low power electron micrographs, particularly those concerned with thrombosis,
benefit greatly from such high quality reproduction while it makes the flaws in some
of the other plates more conspicuous. All in all, it is a high price to pay considering that
the same check would buy the new 7 lb. edition of Miale's Laboratory Medicine-Hematol-
ogy or the new edition of Wintrobe's "Bible." In spite of this, for those with unrestricted
funds and a special interest in platelets, this is a nice volume to peruse and keep on the
shelf for reference.—Dorothea Zucker-Franklin, M.D.

SELECTED PAPERS OF GEORGE HEVESY. George Hevesy.
Pergamon Press, Inc. Pages: 431
44-01 21st Street Price: $14.50
Long Island City, New York 11101 Publication date: June 13, 1967

George Hevesy, one of the genuine pioneers in the use of radioisotopes as tracers in
biology and medicine, included in this book papers which span fifty unusually productive
years. A Nobel prize, six honorary doctorates, and numerous awards attest to the wide
recognition and outstanding caliber of his work. In the field of hematology his contributions
include labeling of erythrocytes with radioisotopes, studies of erythrocyte permeability,
and some studies of ferrokinetics. Regrettably, however, this book has scant appeal, and
not merely because less than half of the papers are germane to hematology.

The value of this book is as the historical record of the man and his work. Almost all of
the papers are sufficiently dated that those seeking reference material for current problems
must consult later and more comprehensive sources. Under these circumstances this book
must be viewed in relation to an earlier book, The Collected Papers of George Hevesy (2
vol., Pergamon Press Ltd., Oxford, 1962, $30.00), which contained all except the last few
papers before he died. The latter book included 49 of the 51 papers in the present book.
A 20-page autobiography greatly enhanced the historical perspective of The Collected
Papers. As hematologists, we miss his original description of the use of 32P-labeled erythro-
cytes in determining red cell mass; instead Selected Papers offers us a paper from 1942,
two years later. Only the earlier book has an index.

In summary, those individuals or libraries interested in the historical record are advised
to double their investment and acquire the earlier book.—Michael L. Greenberg, M.D.

CARCINOGENESIS: A BROAD CRITIQUE. A collection of papers presented at the Twentieth
The Williams and Wilkins Co. Pages: 774
428 East Preston Street Price: $16.00
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

This vintage volume in the M.D. Anderson Hospital series is certainly long as well as
broad. Of the five sections (the etiology of lymphomas and leukemias; carcinogenesis in
mammary tissues; carcinogenesis in the liver; dedifferentiation and transformation of cul-
tured animal cells to neoplastic states; the general status of chemical and physical agents in
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Carcinogenesis (the first is of the most immediate interest to the hematologist. Here, as elsewhere, the contents of individual papers varies from the extremely technical to the general and at times philosophically. This leukemia section is dominated by virology to the almost complete exclusion of other etiologic mechanisms, although brief reviews on chemical and radiation leukemogenesis appear in later sections. Some of the virological work reported is necessarily of the snapshot variety and has already been overtaken, in spite of the commendably short incubation period of this volume. The urgency of the groping for progress can be felt throughout; nevertheless Sabin's almost completely negative summing-up of the evidence for a viral etiology of human leukemia makes sobering reading. His paper, perhaps more than most others, approaches the concept of a broad critique promised in the title of the book.

Carcinogenesis which is well produced with an adequate index, contains much which will be of interest to specialists in fields other than hematology: there is information to be found on virology, biochemistry, biophysics, pharmacology, radiation biology, immunology, pathology, and other subjects related to the induction of solid tumors as well as leukemia. Some lively discussions are included, and the illustrations are uniformly excellent. This is a very useful reference volume which many general and specialized libraries will want to have on their shelves.—F. W. Gunz, M.D.


This is a very readable text which attempts to cover a vast field. According to the preface, basic biological principles are presented in the hope that the medical student and practitioner can put them intelligently into the context of the clinical case. Unfortunately, so many different areas are covered that the basic concepts are often presented in insufficient detail for real learning. There are very few illustrations for a book of this kind. I found the quotations at the chapter headings and the many definitions and literary allusions in the text of considerable interest.—William Dameshek, M.D.


In this book, Drs. Sagher and Evens-Paz consolidate their observations on mastocytosis and the mast cell in one monograph which is divided into two parts; a clinical section dealing largely with systemic mastocytosis and a separate section dealing with tissue mast cells morphology, chemistry, and physiology. There are sixty pages of references. This is an excellent book to have, although for my own taste, there is too much of a tendency to classify and sub-classify and an insufficiency of speculative discussion.—William Dameshek, M.D.

SPLENOLOGIE. L. Arvy. Gauthier-Villars Pages: 472 Paris, France Price: None quoted

This is a good compendium of knowledge regarding the spleen and including comparative morphology and histology, lymphatics, splenic enzymes, radiation and the spleen, and what the spleen does or might be doing within the body. According to the author, it is a
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defense center against foreign agents including parasites, tumors, and the like and a center for metabolic activities. There is an extensive bibliography of about eighty pages and a great many good photographs, many in color. I can see that this would be a good book to have around when searching for anything having to do with the spleen.

—William Dameshek, M.D.

NEWS AND VIEWS

SYMPOSIUM ON HEMOPHILIA

The International Symposium on Hemophilia will be held from Monday, August 26 to Wednesday, August 28, 1968 during the Fifth Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia which is taking place at the International Aviation Building in Montreal, Canada from August 23 to August 28, 1968.

This time has been chosen to make it convenient for participants who would also like to attend the International Society of Hematology Congress in New York, September 1 through September 6, 1968.

All the speakers on the program have been selected by invitation to present papers on subjects on which they are making significant contributions to the care of hemophiliacs.

There will be some scientific exhibits sponsored by large pharmaceutical firms which have contributed so much to the modern therapy of hemophilia.

CLINICAL DAY—CARL H. SMITH

A Clinical Day in honor of Emeritus Professor Carl H. Smith will be held in the auditorium of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center on Thursday, September 12, 1968, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Guest speakers are: Professor J. V. Dacie, Drs. Louis K. Diamond, William Dameshek, and Irving Shulman. For additional information and a copy of the program, write to Dr. Philip Lanzkowsky, Department of Pediatric Hematology, The New York Hospital, 525 East 68th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021.