BOOK REVIEWS

(Giannico, Mininni and Scardigli, Sabatini and co-workers). Breda has presented an extensive study on the clinical use of anticoagulants. The importance of fever-induced activation of fibrinolysis has been stressed by Sabatini, Meneghini, and Cervini.

Spleen and hypersplenism. A number of contributions have been devoted to the splenomegaly of Brill-Symmers' disease, and its treatment by splenectomy. Splenectomy has also been advised by Grosso in a case of Niemann-Pick's disease. G. Di Guglielmo and his school (Signorelli) have reviewed the splenic and extrasplenic aspects of Banti's disease. The physiopathology of hypersplenism has been discussed and investigated in detail by Pusin and by Avezzu. Pi offender has published an interesting clinical and experimental study on the effects of prolonged splenic contraction by means of "acaprin" (a drug employed against pliroplasmosis in animals) in hypersplenic conditions.

Blood proteins and immunohematology. The great interest in problems related to plasma proteins is shown by the fact that the international journal Plasma is currently published in Milan under the direction of E. Poli. Poli and co-workers have produced dysproteinemias experimentally. Plasma protein patterns have been investigated in rheumatoid arthritis (Caniggia, Pagliardi), Hodgkin's and Buerger's disease (Pagliardi), silicosis (Boselli), lepra (Arcuri and Inzerillo), scleroderma (Viale and Pende), pulmonary tuberculosis (Ravazzoni and Ghigliotti) and other conditions. Paper electrophoresis is receiving much attention, and its results have been compared with those of the classical Tiselius technic. Celli and Fava have described a variety of multiple myeloma with a normal protein pattern. The second case in the Italian literature of myeloma with plasma gelation has been reported by Cugudda. Paper electrophoretic studies on the lipoprotein pattern in atherosclerosis have been performed by Antonini and co-workers, who have also analyzed the mechanism of the clarifying action of heparin. A monograph on the hemolytic disease of the newborn has been published by Sansone. The new "intermediate" antigen Eα has been described by Ceppellini.

The production of antileukocytic sera has been attempted by Cujano and Maurea. The so-called L.E. phenomenon has been repeatedly described (Vannucci, Silvestrini and Bianco) and extensively studied by Marmont, who suggested that it is due to autoimmune-ization. The artificial production of the L.E. phenomenon by means of Bogomoletz antireticular serum has been reported by Cappelli. The existence of leukolysins in granulocytopenias induced by nitrogen mustard has been reported by Danco.

The presence of platelet agglutinins in idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura has been confirmed by Ninni and by Cugudda.

ALBERTO MARMONT

BOOK REVIEWS


Sidney B. Schatkin's well known classic is now in its third edition. It has been considerably expanded and brought up to date, in order to include new developments which have occurred since the second edition appeared in 1947. This book is of great value to lawyers who have occasion to handle cases in which the problem of maternity and paternity arises, and is of interest to immunohematologists because of its extended coverage of the use of blood tests in problems of disputed parentage. The first 160 pages are devoted to matters primarily of interest to lawyers: the legal definition and status of natural or illegitimate children (chapter I) and a detailed discussion of the nature of affiliation proceedings and the
rules of evidence in such proceedings (chapters II and III). The next 190 pages are devoted to blood tests, and this section is of primary interest to the immunohematologist. The remainder of the volume is devoted to other legal aspects of disputed paternity proceedings, including a summary of the illegitimacy statutes in various states and recommendations for a uniform illegitimacy act. The supplement contains forms which are used in disputed paternity proceedings, including illustrative blood grouping test reports. The volume closes with an adequate index.

With the growing realization by the legal profession of the importance of blood grouping tests in problems of disputed parentage, such tests are becoming a more and more important part of the practice of immunohematology. Therefore, immunohematologists will find Schatkin's volume an invaluable addition to their library, and a reliable source of information regarding problems of this nature. The volume contains a clear and authoritative discussion of the scientific aspects of blood tests. The rules of heredity of the A-B-O groups and M-N types are clearly set forth together with tables, in a manner which should be clear to lawyers as well as specialists in the field. There is an extended discussion of the Rh-Hr types, with detailed tables illustrating the heredity of the types of this complex system. Here the author, a lawyer, has set an example for those immunohematologists who have allowed themselves to become confused by quibbling regarding the genetic theory and unnecessary duplication of nomenclature. The author has stuck to the facts, which are simply and lucidly presented, and uses only the International Rh-Hr Nomenclature. This cannot fail to make a good impression on those courts and individuals—their numbers are, fortunately, rapidly diminishing—who remain unconvinced of the medicolegal value of blood tests. Of particular interest is the analysis of seventy-five cases in which the blood tests excluded paternity; in every one of these either the blood test report led to a belated confession by the mother, or the circumstances of the case were such that there were strong reasons to doubt the veracity of her accusations.

The new edition of Schatkin's book maintains the position of this classic as the most authoritative and complete source of information regarding disputed paternity proceedings, and especially the use of blood tests in such cases. The volume is highly recommended.—A. S. Wiener

ESPLENOMEGALIAS CRONICAS NO LEUCEMIASC, Rodolfo Armas-Cruz. Santiago, Imp. La Sud America, 1936, pp. 542.


The volume by Armas-Cruz which was published in 1936, receives in these columns a review which is long overdue. Despite the great lapse of time, there is much to be learned from this South American text, which is apparently almost unknown to North American readers and rarely referred to.

The work was apparently privately printed and was not preceded or followed by journal articles by the same author dealing with the spleen, so that it became but little known, except to a limited audience in South America. It is a large tome of 522 pages with an extensive bibliography of about 20 pages, thus making it by far the largest volume yet published on the spleen. As its title implies, it deals with chronic nonleukemic splenomegalies and particularly with the concept of hypersplenism and the indications for splenectomy. Introductory chapters are devoted to the reticuloendothelial system, to the special physiology of the spleen, and to the semiology of the spleen. Hypersplenism is next considered, total and partial forms, acute, subacute, and chronic types are discriminated, and the various disorders resulting in splenomegaly and hypersplenism are discussed. A brief account of the diagnosis of hypersplenism is next considered and is followed by a large chapter on splenectomy. The historical aspects, in some respects the author's forte, are exhaustively discussed and bring in much information not available elsewhere. The bulk of the book is taken up by a study of chronic nonleukemic splenomegaly with exhaustive discussions of hemolytic anemias and the splenic anemias and their relation to cirrhosis of the liver.
Although much of the discussion, particularly that dealing with hemolytic anemia and thrombocytopenic purpura, is now out of date, the book is one of the first to deal with the hypersplenic concept as such and with its variations, and thus may still be read with considerable profit. The chapter dealing with splenic anemia and the Banti concept has probably the best survey of the literature dealing with this disturbance that can be found anywhere. It is apparent that Armas-Cruz was one of the first to break away from the concept previously held by Banti and his adherents that the splenic condition was primary and the cirrhosis a secondary phenomenon. It is now generally accepted that cirrhosis of the liver eventually leads in many cases to portal hypertension and splenomegaly and thus eventually to the various types of cytopenia.

Although the book is prolix, it nevertheless represents a milestone in the discussion of splenomegaly, a milestone often disregarded by our North American authors, including, it must be confessed, the reviewer. This, therefore, represents a belated attempt to rectify an act of omission.

The book by Sturgis, a publication in the American Lecture Series, represents a printing of the Beaumont Lecture of the Wayne County Medical Society (1952). Prepared as a lecture, the book makes no claim to being exhaustive, but makes easy reading and discusses adequately the various concepts now held regarding hypersplenism. There are chapters on hereditary spherocytosis, acquired (autoimmune) hemolytic anemia, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura. The benefit of the author's vast experience in the field of hypersplenism is a valuable dividend. As a first reader in the hypersplenic concept, this book may be recommended.

There appears to be a growing interest in disorders of the spleen and in hypersplenism. It is hoped that these volumes will give the reader some ideas as to the indications and contraindications for splenectomy. Certainly, it is just as important to know when not to take the spleen out as otherwise. Although hypersplenism as an entity is by no means as clear cut as hyperthyroidism, there can be no doubt that it exists. It is hoped, however, that hypersplenism will not be diagnosed in every case showing anemia or leukopenia with splenomegaly. Rigid criteria should be established in diagnosis and these will doubtless be helped by a careful reading of the books reviewed here.—William Dameshek


This monograph is based on an exhibit at the 1951 meeting of the American Medical Association. The earlier volume,* long out of print, has now undergone extensive revision and enlargement to include recent developments in the field. It represents a very useful and concise presentation of the subject of spleen and hypersplenism. Physiology and physiopathology of the spleen and the various hypersplenic syndromes are presented and there is a technical appendix, depicting in pictorial detail the various methods for splenectomy and management of portal hypertension.

Each chapter is an up-to-date presentation of the subject. Thus, although the discussion of some of the aspects of hypersplenism is of necessity very short and, at times, restricted to the essentials, this monograph should be very helpful to the physician and the medical student who wish to obtain a clear view of the subject.—Mario Stefanini
