Book Reviews

Advances in Microcirculation, vol. 3. Harders (ed.), Karger, Basel 1970. This is an interesting collection of articles, including one contributed by A. Kroeger, and six from the Department of Anatomy at Gothenburg, Sweden. The first article deals with the effect of intravenous administration of fat emulsions on the microcirculation of the pancreas and mesentery. It is an interesting combination of new material and a review of past work in this area. There is an admirable attempt made to present the results in a quantitative manner and to draw together the results of in vivo and in vitro experiments. Two-hundred references are cited. The remaining six articles are, individually, less ambitious. Together they present a picture of current activities in Gothenburg. These include infrared thermography, a technique for study of the circulation of peripheral nerve, microcirculation of the cochlea, micro-vascularization of grafts of Nucleus pulposus, and microvascular responses to smoking in man. Only the last of these has a large (99 references) bibliography.

L. D. Homer, Providence, R.I.

Sodi Pallares, Medrano, Bisteni, and Ponce de Leon: Deductive and Polyparametric Electrocardiography.

Deductive electrocardiography is a method of interpreting electrocardiograms based on principles of fundamental electrophysiology and vectorial analysis, and is an approach that is widely used in most textbooks of electrocardiography. However, much of the original work on the activation process was done by Sodi Pallares and his colleagues at the National Heart Institute of Mexico over the past 25 years, so that this book contains many basic concepts which are presented in more detail than is found elsewhere. I found this 1st section to be an informative and logical explanation of the principles of electrocardiography, and particularly enjoyed the sections on hypertrophies, bundle branch blocks, and ischemic, injured and dead tissue. Polyparametric electrocardiography goes further, and attempts to analyze the electrical events in terms of metabolic and mechanical phenomena at a cellular level, emphasizing changes in transmembrane action potential. This section is a detailed exposition of the theory and experimental evidence behind the authors’ controversial polarizing treatment for acute myocardial infarction, which has not been widely accepted in this country because of poor results in controlled studies. Tracings are presented which allege to show successful response to polarizing treatment, but which could easily be interpreted as showing the normal evolution of the electrocardiogram after myocardial ischemia or infarction. However, in spite of the authors’ bias, the theoretical considerations are of interest, and worth reading. The book is printed entirely in italics, which I found somewhat tiring to read, but the diagrams and electrocardiograms are well-presented and clearly reproduced.

Sodi Pallares and his co-workers have contributed much of our knowledge of basic electrophysiology, and his book is well worth studying, both by the novice learning to interpret electrocardiograms, and the cardiologist who would like to review some of the original concept of electrocardiography. F. Reichel, Providence, R.I.