
‘There is a disorder of the breast, marked with strong and particular symptoms, considerable for the kind of danger belonging to it, and not extremely rare ... Those, who are afflicted with it, are seized ... by a painful and most disagreeable sensation in the breast, which seems as if it would take life away.’ Heberden described the classical pain of angina pectoris 200 years ago, yet there are still differences of opinion regarding the hemodynamic alterations which accompany anginal pain. On the belief that changes in heart rate, blood pressure and peripheral resistance increase the myocardial oxygen demand during the anginal pain, several investigators have proposed to decrease the sympathetic drive to the circulation through carotid sinus stimulation. In this carefully documented monograph, Dunning describes the physiological basis for this new therapeutic modality and clearly delineates its limitations. He describes in great detail the course of the disease and the effects of electrostimulation in a series of 12 patients carefully studied over a period of 3 to 33 months. As he puts it, ‘Carotid sinus nerve stimulation is not a panacea for angina. Its effect use demands a cooperative and reasonably intelligent patient, requires a surgical procedure, however minor, and makes the patient dependent on the splendours and miseries of bio-engineering.’ He concludes that carotid sinus nerve stimulation offers a relatively safe and effective treatment for a small, selected group of anginal patients who are incapacitated by their disease and refractory to conventional medical therapy.

P. M. Galletti, Providence, R.I.


Dr. Schrire has produced a highly readable, extremely up-to-date and concise monograph on Clinical Cardiology. This impressive one-man effort is aimed squarely at the clinician with little attention to the more complicated procedures which have become so integral a part of Cardiology. Starting with the traditional history and physical, Dr. Schrire then works through cardiovascular disorders under conventional subdivisions. The material covered is quite up to date although references are not admixed with text. This is not a reference book, but a list of selected references is provided for each chapter. The illustrations suffer by being so reduced in size. X-rays and ECG’s are particularly vulnerable and suffer most. VCG is given very scant attention and even fails to show an infarct VCG in the very abbreviated section. In so ambitious an effort numerous small oversights are inevitable. Scattered deletions and occasional errors are remarkably few and in no way impair the value of this text. It is hard to imagine a single individual writing such a text with so little personal bias interjected. Dr. Schrire has produced a highly readable account of modern clinical cardiology. In some areas, greater detail would have been welcome. Nevertheless, this book is highly recommended to clinicians. It is an excellent text for someone wishing to update his knowledge with a minimum expenditure of time.

A. S. Most, Providence, R.I.

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Book Reviews
In principle, the strength of the engineer lies in his ability to solve difficult problems involving systems of great complexity. In practice, the engineer is often seriously handicapped because the original formulation of a problem is vague, and, therefore, no framework exists within which to formalize a solution. This is especially true when an engineer (or anyone else) attacks problems in physiology. One major strength of the physiologist lies in his intuitive feel for the systems he studies. He can usually obtain adequate qualitative answers by applying his intuition and common sense. The author of this book presents his material in such a way that both the engineer and the physiologist can benefit from reading and studying the text. For those trained in physiology, the efficacy of using transport phenomena to study biophysical systems quantitatively is well demonstrated. For engineers, the large number of examples used by the author to illustrate his points underlines the applicability of engineering analyses to physiological systems. The topics covered include transport within the cardiovascular system, trans-capillary exchange, transport between the cardiovascular system and other body compartments, and models of organ function. An extensive, up-to-date list of references is given at the end of each chapter. The material is both well written and well organized. The major success of the book, however, lies not so much in providing definitive descriptions of cardiovascular phenomena, as in stimulating the reader to quantitative modes of thought which can be directed toward further investigations.

P. J. Palatt, Providence, R.I.