Book Review


This is an excellent book of reasonable size. The authors are to be congratulated for a didactically clear and easily understandable review of up-to-date knowledge of steroid biochemistry covering all important aspects. The book is divided in four sections. The first deals with methodological and molecular aspects of steroid hormones. Structure and nomenclature of steroids are clearly explained, assay methodology is discussed and a separate chapter is devoted to methods for tissue investigation. The chapter on biosynthetic pathways closes the first section. The second section deals with pituitary and hypothalamus, adrenal cortex, ovary, testes, fetoplacental unit, liver and kidney. Each chapter discusses aspects of regulation of steroid hormone levels by endocrine glands and other tissues. The third section concentrates on hormonal mode of action in regulating steroid hormone biosynthesis. Here the first chapter discusses glucocorticoid control by ACTH. A second chapter explains the multifactorial regulation of aldosterone synthesis and the third is under the heading of control of gonadal steroidogenesis by FSH and LH. The last section describes the mode of action of Sexsteroids, aldosterone and glucocorticoids, each steroid group in a separate chapter.

The book is illustrated with excellent and simple diagrams. It gives references to each chapter separately. Important review articles and books are listed and, where appropriate, original literature is cited. An index makes the contents of the book accessible for specific questions. This up-to-date review is highly recommendable and will provide an excellent background of the present knowledge of steroid hormone and biochemistry. The book is intended for students of biochemistry and medicine. It will, however, attract the interest of many endocrinologists and research workers and anybody interested on the topic. Congratulations for a well-written comprehensive book of a reasonable size.

[1] Girard, Basel